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WILLIAM REES-MOGG

From Roland Rat to  
the sword of truth: the  
Aitken I know, page 14

MODEL REES

Pioneer who was  
inspiration for the  
Vicar of Dibley, page 13



Start the cricketing  
season by picking your  
Fantasy First XI, page 38



# THE TIMES

No. 65,240

THURSDAY APRIL 13 1995

## Clashes feared when exports resume Ports ordered to lift ban on animal trade

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EXPORTS of live calves and lambs to the Continent are to resume at Britain's busiest ferry port next week after a High Court ruling that bans imposed by harbours and airports were an illegal capitation to mob rule.

In a landmark judgment, the court told Dover Harbour Board, Plymouth City Council and Coventry Airport that they had no right to refuse to handle — or seek to stop — a lawful trade, even if many people thought it immoral.

The three authorities — were refused leave to appeal, and Dover will be reopened to the trade soon after Easter, in spite of warnings from Kent police that demonstrators could cause widespread traffic chaos through the summer.

In Sussex, the Chief Constable said that he would go ahead with his plan to restrict animal exports to two sailings a week from April 24. Peter Whitehouse, said exporters would be charged with breach of the peace if they tried to deliver livestock on other days.

Issuing his ruling yesterday, Lord Justice Simon Brown said that port authorities were entitled to the exporters' fullest co-operation to minimise disruption and could properly close their ports on security grounds in an emergency. But they must beware of surrendering to unlawful pressure groups.

Farmers expressed delight, while animal rights protesters vowed to continue their fight. Dawn Potter of Action for Animals said they would now concentrate their efforts on Dover, where live exports had been banned since January 6.

Lord Justice Brown, sitting with Mr Justice Popplewell, said that unless regular outlets were speedily opened to the livestock trade, up to 60,000 farmers could go out of business.

Calf exports, normally producing an income of £95 million a year, had fallen by 50



Peter Gilder, exporter who challenged ban

per cent because of the disruption to trade, and lamb exports, normally producing £80 million a year, by some 70 per cent, the judge said. The effect had been particularly devastating on Welsh hill farmers.

The vast bulk of the 1.9 million sheep and 500,000 calves exported annually to the Continent go through Dover. But they represent only a tiny proportion of the port's business and Jonathan Sloggett, the managing director of the harbour board, was concerned last night about the effect of the ruling on other customers. Ninety-nine per cent of the port's business would be put at risk for the sake of the 1 per cent represented by livestock, he said.

During the hearing, the Kent police gave a warning that disturbances at could lead to the closure of the A2 and A20 approach roads to the port, causing widespread traffic chaos during the holiday period.

Since the closure of Dover and the refusal since last autumn of the main cross-Channel ferry operators to carry livestock, farmers and exporters have chartered their own boats to ship sheep and calves from Brightlingsea in Essex, Shoreham, and Plymouth in Devon. Phoenix Aviation has also flown calves to France and The Netherlands

from Coventry. The Kent police are now concerned that exporters may abandon these in favour of Dover which, unlike the other ports, is not at the mercy of the tides, so exports could be continuous.

In giving his ruling, Lord Justice Brown said it was difficult to define the precise point at which the right of public demonstration ended and the criminal offence of public nuisance began, but all violent conduct was unlawful, as was any activity disrupting people's rights to go about their lawful business.

"It may, indeed, be doubted whether there remains any logic in protesting at the ports. The only body properly able to ban this lawful trade is Parliament itself — unless the Secretary of State is rightly advised that even that would be unlawful under [European] Community law, in which event the only solution lies across the Channel," he said.

Ben Gill, deputy president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "This is enormously important. We now have a correct basis in law for full restoration of this trade. No farmer would condone any cruelty to livestock. We live with our animals day in and day out. What must be improved is animal welfare abroad."

Peter Gilder, the exporter who challenged the Dover ban, was booed by demonstrators as he left the High Court declaring it was a "brilliant, fantastic" judgment and he hoped to start operations from Dover "as soon as we can come up with some amicable agreement with the local authorities".

Animal rights demonstrators outside Coventry airport pledged to "carry on fighting". Ursula Bates, of Compassion in World Farming, said: "We shall step up our protests. We are going to stop this trade. It may be legal but it is utterly immoral."



Passengers, stuck near the Channel Tunnel entrance, vent their frustration yesterday

## Eurostar train stranded

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
LUCY BERRINGTON  
AND MARIANNE DARCH

HUNDREDS of London-bound passengers were stranded on a Eurostar train for four hours yesterday after its overhead power arm ripped down live cables in Kent a mile from the Channel Tunnel.

The £24 million train, on the early morning service from Gare du Nord in Paris, shuddered to a halt at 8.15am amid a shower of sparks. The 250 passengers, who had paid between £84 and £195 return,

were finally bussed to Waterloo after spending up to five hours in the carriages. They were dropped off outside the international terminal, six hours after their 9.20am scheduled arrival time.

The accident brought all Eurostar services between London, Paris and Brussels grinding to a halt for more than three hours while engineers struggled to clear debris from the four-track line.

More than 2,400 passengers on five Eurostar trains suffered delays of between three and ten hours. They will all receive a full refund, at a cost

to European Passenger Services, the Eurostar operator, of up to £2.5 million. Car shuttle and freight services continued as normal. Angry passengers were given vouchers for full refunds by Eurostar staff at the station but many demanded compensation for lost time and inconvenience.

James Carlisle, an Essex businessman, said: "This could have cost me a valuable client. Eurostar deserves to go bust."

Marion Denis, a bilingual secretary from Paris on a day trip said she would have to

## Teachers back strike ballot over rise in class sizes

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STATE schools face a summer of disruption after traditionally moderate teachers voted overwhelmingly yesterday to allow ballots for strikes against large classes.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, angered by threatened job losses, advised members to refuse to take charge of classes with more than 31 pupils.

The decision gives fresh momentum to the growing revolt by teachers, parents and governors against the Government's tough education spending settlement this year. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, faces the prospect of a united front with the two other main classroom unions expected to approve plans for industrial action at their conferences over Easter.

The largest union, the National Union of Teachers, will debate at the weekend demands for a 24-hour national strike against the squeeze on school budgets. Primary schools would be most affected by any action against the increases in class sizes which unions fear will follow an anticipated 14,000 job losses in the coming months.

Representatives at the teachers and lecturers' annual conference in Harrogate voted to hasten action against large classes because of the extra workload for teachers and concern about children's health and safety just minutes before they were addressed by Mrs Shephard. They sanctioned local and national ballots for action, including strikes, and advised teachers not to take sole responsibility for classes which exceeded their recommended size limits for more than two consecutive days.

The union's 135,000 members, which include 40,000 primary teachers, will receive detailed advice about the

forms action might take early in the summer term. Children in classes breaching the union's limits could be sent home on a rota, distributed among smaller classes in the same school, or be "babysat" rather than taught.

Initially, action would be most likely in individual schools and local authorities where funding difficulties are most acute, such as Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Devon. Teachers could take immediate action without a ballot if they were concerned for the safety of children in crowded classes.

Yesterday's vote threatens to derail Mrs Shephard's efforts to restore Conservative relations with the profession and

Larger classes ..... 6  
Janet Daley ..... 14  
Leading article ..... 15

take the heat out of an issue which could damage the party's already poor prospects in next month's local elections. She has escaped most of the odium for this year's spending cuts because she wrote to Cabinet colleagues saying she feared thousands of jobs would be lost and class sizes would shoot up unless the Government funded in full the teachers' 2.7 per cent pay increase. But after losing the Cabinet battle, Mrs Shephard has been forced to woo teachers by promising that the Prime Minister will make education a spending priority next year.

Mrs Shephard said after the vote that industrial action was wrong and hoped it would not go ahead. Schools should be freed from the legal requirement to hold daily acts of collective Christian worship, the association also decided.

## \$22bn takeover

Kirk Kerkorian, 77, the Californian casino billionaire, yesterday made a \$22.8 billion bid for Chrysler, the American carmaker. Chrysler shares rose but Wall Street dismissed the offer as an attempt by Mr Kerkorian to persuade the company to buy back his holding. Page 23

## Appointments

Section 3 has 20 pages of senior executive posts

Accountancy	30
Arts	30-33
Births, marriages, deaths	34-35
Books	36
Bridge	41
Cheese	41
Law Report	36
Obituaries	17
Racing	41
Travel	21
TV & Radio	42-43

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North Korea \$434.







# Cobb faller finds silver lining in loss of £95,000 award



Staples: not surprised

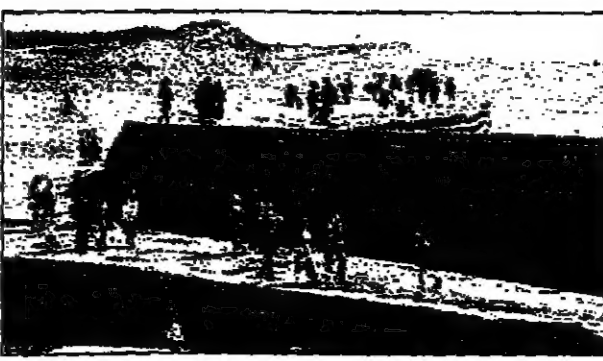
By Emma Wilkins and Andrew Pierce

A MAN who won £95,000 compensation after he fell from the Cobb at Lyme Regis has had his award overturned on appeal.

However, Paul Staples, 39, said he was not disappointed because he had not yet received or planned how to spend the money. He added that it had been a more eventful week than usual, as a decree nisi from his former wife had just come through. "I'm not at all bitter about not getting the money. In fact I'm quite pleased that I won't have to hand any of it over to my ex-wife."

Mr Staples, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, claimed that West Dorset District Council should have posted danger signs on the 166-year-old harbour wall after he slipped and fell 20ft on to rocks, fracturing his pelvis and dislocating his hip, seven years ago. He was awarded compensation by the High Court in Winchester.

But West Dorset District Council argued at the Court of Appeal that the danger of slipping on the Cobb's algae-covered surface was obvious. Lord Justice Kennedy ruled that the council had correctly posted warning signs after the incident, but that should not mean that there should have been a notice in place before Mr Staples's fall. Visitors to



The Cobb in Lyme Regis from which Mr Staples fell

the Cobb could make their own decisions about whether to walk along it.

Mr Staples said: "I brought the case in the first place to get the council to put up warning signs, which they have now done. I was as astonished as the next person when I was awarded £95,000."

Alan Muir, senior solicitor, said the council was delighted

by the ruling. "The council lodged the appeal because it was felt that the case had wider implications in respect of the extent to which the council should go to warn the public of possible dangers."

In the case of the Cobb, the Appeal Court judges clearly felt the council's duty of care to visitors did not extend to erecting a sign.

Mr Staples is believed to be the first non-fictional person to have fallen from the Cobb, which features in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* as the site of Louisa Musgrove's fall while walking out with Captain Wentworth.

It also featured in the film *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. John Fowles, author

of the book, whose house overlooks the Cobb, said last night that he was delighted the award had been overturned. "Paying compensation to someone who did not have the common sense to look after themselves was the height of madness. People have been standing on the Cobb for decades without incident. Local authorities which have sites of great historic interest in their jurisdiction require protection against lawsuits from clumsy people. The Cobb should be protected from people, not the other way round."

Mr Fowles said he was horrified by the notion of hazard signs on the Cobb, or even worse, safety railings.

"Over my dead body. If we went down that avenue just about every interesting site in the world would be fenced in by railings because of the stupidity of man."

He said that the entire community in Lyme Regis had been dismayed by the size of the compensation ruling. "It was iniquitous. There would have been a fighting fund set up if the council had been forced to pay."

"If they had not won the appeal hundreds of people would have flocked to the Cobb, in the hope of being blown over in high winds, and suing for thousands. I fear it would ultimately have been shut off to us all because of one man's misfortune."

## Double-glazed patio doors smashed at family's isolated country home

# Farmhouse wife 'killed with burglar's jemmy'

By Dominic Kennedy

JANET BROWN, whose handcuffed and naked body was found in her isolated home, had been beaten five times on the back of the head with a weapon believed to be a crowbar or a jemmy. Police believe that she disturbed a burglar but say that the circumstances of her death are so unusual that other theories are still being considered.

Detectives did not give details of alternative explanations but said that her husband, Dr Graham Brown, was not a suspect. Dr Brown, a research chemist, flew from his work in Basel, Switzerland, on Tuesday evening after learning of his wife's death.



Janet Brown found lying at the foot of the stairs

Asked if Mrs Brown had ever had an affair, Detective Superintendent Michael Short, who is leading the investigation, said: "Not to my knowledge." Neighbours doubted that there were problems in the marriage. "She was a one-man woman, not a flirtatious sort at all," a villager said. "She was always very proper."

Mrs Brown, 52, is thought to have been killed in the late evening. She was lying face down at the foot of the stairs, partly in the living room, with hands secured behind her back and her head covered in blood.

Her dressing gown was in her bedroom and she had not been sexually assaulted. There was no sign of a struggle upstairs and little indication that she had been able to put up much resistance downstairs.

Mr Short said: "It is certainly not common to find a lady without her clothes and lying on her front, handcuffed. There's a thousand things that could have gone on."

Unlike Thames Valley police handcuffs, the metal cuffs did not bear a manufacturer's name. It was not clear whether Mrs Brown had been handcuffed before the attack, or after she died. Mr Short said that burglars sometimes carried handcuffs. "It's certainly not unknown for people to break their way into a house and tie people up."

Dr Brown spent 90 minutes yesterday being briefed by Mr Short before identifying his

wife's remains. Mr Short said: "At some stage we'll have to ask him about his marriage, but at this stage there is nothing to indicate that they were separated. It is a perfectly happy marriage."

Dr Brown was hoping to be reunited with his three children, Zara, 22, a languages graduate, Benedict, 21, a student at Exeter, and Roxanne, 17, an A-level student. The family are staying with friends and plan to spend Easter together.

Mrs Brown's body was found by a builder's son at 8.11am on Tuesday at the

family's four-bedroom farmhouse at Hall Farm, Radnage, Buckinghamshire. The burglar alarm was ringing but was not a type connected to a police station.

Double-glazed patio doors at the side of the house had been smashed, leaving "an awful lot of glass both inside and outside the premises", Mr Short said. The house has a Neighbourhood Watch sign on several windows and a sticker with a picture of a dog bearing the warning *Cave canem*.

If Mrs Brown had set the alarm it would have been

activated by the breaking of the glass doors. Alternatively, she could have pressed one of two panic buttons in the bedrooms. Engineers were yesterday inspecting the alarm to see how it had been activated.

The last person to speak to Mrs Brown was a teenage girl who knows Roxanne. She telephoned at 8.30pm, when she was told Roxanne was away for the night.

Two forensic scientists from Aldermaston are leading a team that expects to take two days to examine the immediate area where the body was found. It will take a week of minute scientific examination of the entire farmhouse before Dr Brown will be able to return with detectives to discover if anything has been stolen.

Police are seeking the owner of a small car seen parked at 9.50pm on Monday on a patch of waste ground known as The Triangle, 200 yards from Hall Farm. They also want to find a motorcyclist who awoke villagers at 6.30am on Tuesday using quiet roads normally used by early morning horse-riders.

Detectives will check estate agency records in case the family home, sold a fortnight ago for £345,000, was visited by a bogus buyer who came back to steal the contents. The Browns were hoping to move to Oxford, where Mrs Brown was working on a research project into the long-term health of women who had been successfully treated for fertility problems in the 1970s and 1980s.

She was employed on a three-year contract with the University of Oxford's Department of Public Health and Primary Care, operating from a base at the Anglia and Oxford Regional Health Authority site in Oxford. Much of her work involved looking through health records stored in hospitals across Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Her manager on the project, Dr Mike Murphy, a consultant epidemiologist, said: "What has happened is staggering and tragic. We will miss Janet immensely. She was a lovely person as well as a linchpin of the research work."



Police forensic scientists were combing the house and grounds for clues yesterday as engineers examined the security system to see how it was triggered

## Workmen find girl's body in canal

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE searching for a 13-year-old girl missing from home for five months have recovered a body from a canal. Detectives in West Yorkshire said they believed the body was that of Lindsay Rimer, who vanished from her home in Hebden Bridge in November. A post-mortem examination was being carried out last night to try to establish the cause of death.

A senior officer went to the home of Lindsay's parents, Gordon and Geraldine Rimer, soon after workmen found the body in the Rochdale canal, about two miles from the family home.

Lindsay disappeared late on the evening of November 7 after going to a grocer's in the centre of Hebden Bridge to buy cereal for her breakfast.

Her visit was recorded by the store's security camera, but an intensive check of the area, including a search of neighbouring moorland and the canal, failed to find her.

The day after Lindsay disappeared, Mr Rimer, 42, told a press conference that he did not know she had gone until the following morning. The unemployed former publican said he and his wife had both assumed she had come in and gone straight to bed in her room at the top of the house.

**SATURDAY IN THE TIMES**

**The Bentley boy racers**

WIN TICKETS WORTH £300 TO SEE THE LEGENDS RACE

IN

**CAR 95**

THE £100 PRIZE JUMBO EASTER CROSSWORD

IN

**WEEKEND**

**Probation for plumber who blew up homes**

By Tim Jones

A PLUMBER who caused a gas explosion that destroyed three homes was put on probation for two years yesterday. The blast, which caused about £300,000 of damage, happened as Michael Beattie lit his living-room fire while watching an episode of *Dad's Army* entitled "Things That Go Bump in the Night". He clambered from the rubble with only flash burns, but his home and those of two neighbours were wrecked, leaving 11 people homeless.

Plymouth Crown Court was told that Roy Greener, 56, had incorrectly used a DIY plastic cap to plug a partially fitted gas pipe at Mr Beattie's home in Plymouth.

Greener, of Plymouth, a plumber for 23 years, admitted a charge under the Gas Safety Regulations Act of failing to ensure a gas pipe was properly sealed.

Judge Griegs said: "I am satisfied you were not reckless but you were negligent." Insurance companies will foot the bill for the blast.

**Man found hanged after rape acquittal**

By Andrew Pierce

A MAN cleared of rape last month has been found hanged, provoking renewed calls for the law to be changed to protect the identity of defendants in rape trials.

Irene Jackson, who discovered the body of her 22-year-old son Mark in the family home in Wigan, Greater Manchester, claimed last night that he would still be alive if he had not been named.

Mrs Jackson said that the trial at Exeter Crown Court and publicity in the local press had turned her son into a recluse. "He couldn't face people even though he was innocent," she said.

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, said last night: "This case is a tragic example of the importance of amending the law. Confidentiality should be extended to the man and the woman until after the verdict or sentence has been passed."

Mr Jackson, a chef, was cleared of rape at his bedsit in Minehead, Somerset.

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## Doctor blighted by sex slurs wins £45,000 damages

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A Gynaecologist who said his career had been destroyed after he was falsely accused of sexual harassment by two midwives won £45,000 damages for libel and slander at the High Court yesterday.

Dr Mudiame Giwa-Osagie, 41, blamed a racial conspiracy after he was suspended from his job as an acting registrar at Doncaster Royal Infirmary in December 1990. He said that malicious gossip and the lies of the two midwives with whom he worked had destroyed his chances of becoming a consultant earning £142,000 a year.

After four hours' deliberation, the jury agreed that Sally Hall, 29, and Sharon Smithson, 32, had maliciously lied when they claimed, verbally and in a written statement, that Dr Giwa-Osagie had molested them in separate incidents in December 1990.

Mrs Hall broke down in tears and was comforted by her colleague after the jury awarded £40,000 against her and £5,000 against Miss Smithson. Their employer, Doncaster Health Authority, will pay the damages and legal costs estimated at £300,000.

Mr Justice Drake is to rule later this year on Dr Giwa-Osagie's £1 million claim for lost earnings. The gynaecologist had denied molesting the two midwives, one in a lift and one in front of a patient, and also dismissed claims that he had made suggestive remarks and touched the breasts of other nurses.

The court was told that Mrs



Giwa-Osagie: claiming £1m for lost earnings

Hall claimed he got into a lift with her when she was pregnant and rubbed her stomach. She said the doctor said he wished the baby was his. Dr Giwa-Osagie, who was recently married, denied being in the lift and his lawyer, Ronald Thwaites, QC, said he had parted Mrs Hall's stomach "in an innocent act by way of congratulations".

Miss Smithson had complained that Dr Giwa-Osagie molested her in front of a patient and her husband. In her written complaint read to the court she said: "He picked up my hand and proceeded to try to rub it up and down his back trouser pocket."

Dr Giwa-Osagie was suspended after the allegations and put on paid leave until his contract ended, and had been unable to find full employment since. "He was shipwrecked on the rocks by spite and malice," Mr Thwaites told the jury. "He

has lost confidence, poise and self-assurance and become a sad and embittered shadow of his former self."

Hazel Brand, communications manager for Doncaster Royal Infirmary, said after the case: "We hope that other NHS staff will not be deterred from raising concerns of a similar nature with their employers and that they will be treated seriously. There are lessons for all, both employers and employees, in this case."

Ash Karim, solicitor for Dr Giwa-Osagie, of Walthamstow, east London, said the doctor hoped to complete his training as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. "As a professional man, Dr Giwa-Osagie always had complete faith in his innocence and the ability of an English jury to recognise the appalling way he suffered at the hands of Doncaster Royal Infirmary and a number of the staff, including consultants, manager, midwives and nurses," Mr Karim said.



Linda Ward and her fiancé Mike Sagin, to whom she proposed live on air

## TV viewers tune in to presenter's own love story

By LUCY BERRINGTON

TELEVISION viewers tuned in last night for the second instalment of a love story that found its way into a nightly news bulletin. Linda Ward, a newscaster for Westcountry Television in Plymouth, astonished her boyfriend and thousands of viewers by proposing marriage at the end of her 10.30pm broadcast on Tuesday.

Mike Sagin, watching at home, spilled his tea as his girlfriend said: "On a personal note I would like to ask you to marry me. I love you. I want to share your life." Mr Sagin, 42, a hotelier and managing director of an electronics firm, telephoned Linda later on Tuesday to tell her his answer. Viewers who tuned in last night for the second instalment learnt that the proposal had been accepted.

The couple met earlier this year when Miss Ward, 29, from Plymouth, went to the Alverton Manor Hotel in Truro, owned by Mr Sagin, to film a documentary about weddings called *The Big*

Day. Mark Clare, spokesman for Westcountry, said: "It was an impulse. She had five seconds left. All the viewers are really excited, she's a popular lady. We got a call from the Royal Navy helicopter base at Culdrose saying 'If he says no there's a couple of thousand blokes here who'll step in.'"

He said Miss Ward would not face disciplinary action but other presenters would not be allowed to follow suit. He said: "They were told if this happened again not such a lenient view would be taken. But it's hard to take action over such a nice thing."

Mr Sagin, who is divorced with two sons and lives on an estate near Falmouth, Cornwall, said yesterday: "It is a private matter and although Linda proposed in a public manner I don't want it over-sensationalised. It came as a complete surprise and I was certainly very flattered. I knew straight away it was directed at me. I would have been devastated if it wasn't."



The jury decided that Sharron Smithson, left, and Sally Hall had maliciously lied about the doctor



## Soldier's bullying claims rejected

By RICHARD DUCE

A FORMER second lieutenant who claimed that bullying by fellow Army officers drove him to mental breakdown lost all but one of his High Court claims for damages yesterday.

Alastair Green was awarded just £750 over a sexual assault by another former officer ten years ago. It emerged yesterday that Mr Green had turned down an offer of £32,500 paid into court by the Ministry of Defence and the ten named officers. Two of the officers, who served with Mr Green at the 7th Royal Horse Artillery in Aldershot, Hampshire, have died from cancer.

Mr Green, 29, who now lives in Japan and works as an English teacher, was legally aided. The estimated £300,000 costs of the case will be met from public funds. Mr Green, the son of a former RAF wing commander, had served only four months of his short-service commission with the regiment in 1985 before suffering the first of a series of mental breakdowns brought on, he said, by assaults and sexual abuse at the officers' mess. He then failed to pursue his chosen career as a vet and sued for loss of earnings estimated at £500,000.

In his judgment Mr Justice Popplewell said of Mr Green: "No one could fail to sympathise with him or be moved by the very sad position in which he now finds himself. But I am satisfied that there is a good deal of confusion in his thoughts and recollection and I do not find his evidence sufficiently reliable of itself to be accepted without support by some convincing independent evidence."

Mr Green, speaking from his home near Oldnawa, said: The judgment serves to devalue the plight of those victims of sexual harassment and bullying, who have the balls to speak out."

## Fugitive manager admits bank theft

By KATE ALDENSON

A BANK manager who fled to France with almost £100,000 he stole from two cashpoint machines, yesterday pleaded guilty to theft.

Ian Lamb, 38, was on the run for seven months before returning to his wife and two daughters in Rawtenstall, Lancashire, last Christmas. He appeared at Bolton Crown Court and pleaded guilty to stealing £94,020 from the National Westminster Bank in Bolton, where he worked as an assistant bank manager.

Philip Curran, for the defence, asked for an adjournment to allow a medical report to be prepared. Judge Lever, QC, renewed bail and adjourned the case until May 18.

Lamb took the money from the bank's cash dispensers on the evening of Friday, May 13 before driving to France, where he stayed in luxury hotels and played golf. He left behind a string of bad debts which he had accumulated financing an extravagant lifestyle.

□ The map of London hospital closures (April 6) should have shown that University College Hospital, which does not have a site in Middlessex, will remain in Gower Street. The Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital is not to merge with UCL.

□ Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society depositors will receive payouts in the £18 billion Lloyds Bank takeover (Weekend Money, April 7) provided that their accounts have remained open from March 31 last year to July 31 1995.

□ Irish naval vessels did not fly the Canadian flag (report, April 11) when they arrested two Spanish fishing vessels earlier this week.



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# Primary pupils would bear brunt of teachers' action

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A RISING school population has seen class sizes grow during the 1990s after two decades in which they fell. This autumn is likely to see more than 25 pupils in the average state school class for the first time since the early 1970s.

Although secondary school classes are growing, relatively few will reach the maximum of 31 pupils set yesterday by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers as a cut-off point for industrial action. Only 5.5 per cent of secondary classes contained more than 30 pupils last year. Primary schools would be worst affected. Already a third of classes contain more than 30 pupils, and almost 98,000 children are in classes of more than 25.

Britain has some of the lowest primary school staffing levels in a list of comparable nations published this week by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The pressure on

## UNIONS' TARGETS

The 12 authorities with the most pupils in classes over 30

Authority	Number	%
Hampshire	49,059	29.6
Kent	48,466	22.2
Staffordshire	41,153	27.1
Essex	38,110	18.8
Cheshire	38,046	26.7
Birmingham	35,042	22.6
Derbyshire	33,575	26.6
Humberdale	31,218	23.9
Avon	29,980	23.8
Hertfordshire	27,147	19.5
Devon	25,469	19.5
Leeds	23,141	23.5

Source: Education department survey, January 1994

## WORLD LEAGUE

Pupils per teacher: Primary Secondary

Country	Primary	Secondary
Belgium	13.0	6.7
Austria	10.5	9.0
Denmark	11.7	9.6
Hungary	12.6	12.7
Australia	18.0	12.5
Czech Rep	22.2	13.3
France	20.2	14.0
Spain	18.8	15.3
UK	21.2	13.5
Sweden	11.3	16.0
Japan	19.8	16.3
Germany	19.6	16.4

Source: Education at a Glance OECD comparative for 1992

school budgets after the Government's refusal to fund the teachers' pay rise is certain to see the position deteriorate further. Pupil numbers are expected to rise by 381,000 over three years at a time when many schools are having to shed staff. A survey by Professor Alan Smithers, of Manchester University, for *The Times Educational Supplement*, found that up to 14,000 teaching jobs were likely to be lost this summer. The survey also uncovered

regional differences: primary schools in the East Midlands and North West tended to have larger classes, while the South West had much the worst secondary school staffing.

Experts differ on the effect of class size, but most parents appear to be in little doubt. The issue dominates annual meetings in state schools, and the smaller classes in independent schools are acknowledged as an important part of their appeal. Independent

schools have half the number of pupils per teacher. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has insisted that there is no evidence to link small changes in class sizes with pupils' levels of achievement.

Although some Far Eastern countries produce impressive results in classes of more than 40, in much of Europe there are legal limits of 30 or even 25 pupils. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece and Norway all have some legislation covering class size, and Scottish schools are limited to 33 pupils per class through teachers' conditions of service.

In England and Wales, schools have a long way to go to match the numbers seen in the 1950s and 1960s, when classes of 40 in primary schools and 30 in secondary schools were the norm. A change in teaching styles, away from whole-class instruction, required more generous staffing.

Union vote, page 1  
Janet Daley, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



Gillian Shephard with delegates at the Association of Teachers and Lecturers' conference in Harrogate, where a ballot for industrial action was approved

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### One-year sentence for Hurley muggers

Four teenage girls who mugged the model and actress Elizabeth Hurley at knife-point were sentenced to a year in a young offenders' institution by Southwark Crown Court yesterday. Judge Butler, QC, told Christina Guerrina and Carlene Irving, both 18, and 17-year-olds Tamara Flowers and Helen Danso, who wielded the knife, that it was irrelevant that the victim was famous. He said the robbery was "thoroughly nasty". The four, all from London, have been in custody since November and face only about a further month in jail.

### Defeat for Silcott

Winston Silcott lost his appeal against a court ruling blocking part of his civil claim against the Metropolitan Police. Silcott, 34, whose conviction for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock was quashed in 1991, will be allowed to sue only for malicious prosecution.

### Body identified

The body of a woman found in a pond near Guildford last week was confirmed yesterday as that of Catherine Boot, 37. The waitress went missing from a Burger King restaurant in the town last month. A post-mortem examination showed she had died from severe head injuries.

### Top teacher

Audrey Wisbey, of Cranleigh, Surrey, who uses pioneering techniques to teach dyslexic children at Nanturth School, was named teacher of the year at a ceremony in London. She was chosen from 13 regional finalists and received £5,000.

### Boy rapists

Patrick Dillan, who was 14 when he raped an 11-year-old girl at knife-point, was sent to detention for 4½ years by the Old Bailey. At Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex, another boy who was 14 when he raped a girl of 10 received six years' detention.

### 150-acre blaze

About 170 firemen, soldiers and forestry workers, aided by helicopters, fought a 150-acre moorland and forest blaze that threatened the villages of Harrogate and Rothbury, Northumberland. Gamekeepers started the fires to control heather.

### Murder appeal

The Court of Appeal has reserved judgment on the case of Sheila Bowler, a teacher jailed two years ago for the murder of her aunt, Counsel for Bowler, of Rye, East Sussex, said she had been convicted because of incompetent defence.

### Scots go Dutch

BBC Radio Scotland has linked with Radio Netherlands for a seven-part series to be broadcast in both countries. Subjects include minority languages and island life. The Dutch have supplied four free programmes, in English, in return for three.

## Britons plan record getaway

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AN EASTER record of 1.6 million Britons will leave the country today by sea, air and train. Air and ferry ports expect their busiest weekend of the year so far.

Holidaymakers staying in Britain, who can expect three or four days of spring sunshine and mild temperatures, were warned by motoring organisations of traffic jams on all routes to seaside resorts from today.

The Automobile Association said that by this afternoon England would turn into "one big traffic jam". Although the Easter break has started early and rush-hour traffic has been lighter since Monday, long delays will build up quickly from lunchtime and continue until late on Friday.

Probable trouble spots include the M25, the M4 in south Wales, the M5 in Gloucestershire and the M56 in Greater Manchester. The AA said there may be delays on approach roads to Dover caused by animal rights protesters after yesterday's court decision allowing live animal exports from the port.

The London Weather Centre forecasts three warm, sunny days until Saturday with temperatures as high as 17°C. By Sunday cloud will move in from the north and on Monday temperatures will drop to 10°C with showers in the east and north.

More than 500,000 people will leave from Heathrow. Gatwick is expecting 230,000 passengers and Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow airports are prepared for a total of 300,000. Ferry ports will be busy with about 350,000 passengers. Channel Tunnel traffic is expected to be heavy.

Eurostar hitch, page 1  
Travel, page 21  
Forecast, page 22

## Family allowed to exhume 'grandad'

By KATE ALDERSON

A FAMILY banned by a vicar from having the words "grandad" and "dad" on a tombstone won a church court battle yesterday to remove their relative's remains to a new burial site.

Charles and Wendy Brown had challenged a ruling dating back to William the Conqueror to have the body of Mr Brown's father, Frederick, removed from the graveyard of Holy Trinity parish church at Freckleton, Lancashire.

At a consistory court hearing in Burnley Crown Court, a judge ruled that the family could move Mr Brown's body because they had been "unintentionally misled" by the Church of England.

Outside the court Mr Brown, 39, who for two years has been placing flowers on an unmarked grave, said: "We are very relieved at the decision because it has been a great strain. I'm amazed this situation has unfolded over these two simple words."

The Rev Stephen Brian, the vicar at Freckleton, had refused to allow the Browns to inscribe a gravestone "Much Loved Husband, Dad and

Grandad", because he said it was inappropriate. His ban on what he called "pet phrases" was upheld by a consistory court in August 1994.

The family sought permission to move Mr Brown's body to a civic cemetery at Lytham, where the wording would be allowed. They argued that other gravestones at Freckleton used similar words and they had not known of the vicar's relatively new ruling until they went to order a headstone.

During the hearing George Spafford, a recorder and Chancellor of the Manchester diocese, said that laws passed by William the Conqueror, who objected to alterations to Saxon churches and graveyards, made necessary an application to exhume.

He said: "I am strongly of the opinion that the consistory court should act to mitigate this unintentional misleading, therefore the petition is allowed."

"If they [the Browns] had known they would not be able to use these words, the deceased would not be buried where he is."

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STAMFORD 100



# Extremists spread propaganda and terror on Internet

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Internet is giving extremists "a previously undreamed of possibility" for spreading racist and anti-semitic propaganda, a conference was told yesterday. Bomb-making instructions and computer games such as *Achtung Nazi*, in which the aim is to gas as many Jews as possible, are being posted on the worldwide computer link.

Denials that the Holocaust had taken place, glorification of the Third Reich, and hate articles about prominent Jewish families are readily available. Mike Whine, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said the global reach of the Internet and its anarchic nature had presented "a seemingly insurmountable challenge to would-be regulators".

He told the conference, *Governance of Cyberspace*, that the Internet represented a "previously undreamed of possibility for both propagating racism, and allowing racists to access each other's ideas and resources". The bomb-making details, which came from American extremists, may have been used by Austrian Nazis for recent blasts, Mr Whine said.

But he believed that action

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers, linked by telephone lines, along which vast amounts of information can be moved instantly. Up to 30 million people are believed to be connected to the Internet, which is growing fast.

could be taken in Britain under the Public Order Act 1986, which forbids distribution of racially inflammatory material.

The conference, at Teesside University, is examining the legal issues raised by the computer network, on which information is frequently exchanged with scant regard for libel, copyright infringement, contempt of court or laws on pornography or racism.

The conference organiser, Dr Brian Loader, a senior lecturer in policy studies at the university, said Internet users had been able to read details of the criminal proceedings against Rosemary West, charged with ten murders in Gloucester, which newspapers could not publish under contempt of court rules.

Dr Roger Burrows, Reader in Sociology at the Teesside

University, said: "The Internet is a massive new communications system, a network without frontiers, without laws and with no one there to say that you cannot say that or you must not see this. Suddenly, governments are waking up to the realisation that this is an information highway without any way to police its users."

Dr Stephen Mooney, of the London School of Economics, said that the development of information technology threatened to undermine the "foundation, power and authority" of the nation state. The result would be a continuing fragmentation of the state as economic power was transferred to the "cyberstate". The nation state would be reduced "to little more than a large property management company or theme park", while the experts in information technology would form "an international free-floating pool of talent" generating unprecedented wealth.

Dave Carter, of Manchester City Council, will tell the conference today that the network could be socially divisive. "Within a few years communicating via the Internet will be as familiar as using the telephone, but only if you have the necessary skills and can afford the technology in the first place."

## Heart girl prepares for return to Bosnia

By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOSNIAN girl who has undergone heart surgery in a Scottish hospital will fly back to the war-torn city of Mostar next week.

Twelve-year-old Menira Drace, who was born with a large hole in her heart and is only 3ft tall because of a growth problem, will return to an uncertain future and a partly destroyed flat where she will share a bedroom with her mother, father and nine-year-old brother.

More than 17,000 children have been killed in Bosnia in the past three years. Mladen Grbin, chairman of the Scottish charity S.O.S. for Children, said: "There is the potential for real danger on her return. The arrangement was that she would be in Britain for a short time. She always understood that she would return. We have not asked her if she would prefer to stay in Britain. It was never an option."

He said that Menira had shown great courage and had never complained. "She has a very vibrant personality. There was an enormous incision in her tiny body but she never once complained about the pain. She has amazing forbearance."

Asked if she had a favourite toy, Mr Grbin said: "No. She is not a child who would cling to any one thing. She has lost everything." The family's original home was destroyed by shelling. Menira's father has been



Menira Drace: "She has a vibrant personality and amazing forbearance"

wounded by a sniper and she has seen a dozen people killed in the past three years. She is one of a dozen children from the war zone being treated in British hospitals under the Government-backed Operation Irma scheme. Seven-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic, whose plight launched the mission, died in London this month.

Doctors in Glasgow said that Menira should have

been operated on two years ago but because of the war no Mostar hospital was able to treat her. She arrived in Britain with her mother Edina last month for open-heart surgery at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, Glasgow. Her operation took five hours and she was in intensive care for 48 hours.

Since her discharge she and her mother have been living with a Bosnian family

in Glasgow but their visas will soon expire. Yesterday they returned to the hospital to say goodbye to the doctors and nurses.

Asked if she was frightened by the thought of returning, Menira nodded but added that she was anxious to see her father Mladen, a civil servant, and her little brother, Mithad.

Dr William Doig, a consultant paediatric cardiologist,



said that she was an extraordinary girl of whom he had grown very fond. "If she had not had this operation she would have become more and more tired and more debilitated," he said. "It was an essential operation."

Food is so scarce in Bosnia that when Menira arrived in Britain she had forgotten the taste of meat, fish and cheese. Her stay in Glasgow has made up for that and introduced her to the delights of chocolate and chips.

Her mother described through an interpreter how she climbed mountains to search for food parcels that she had heard had been dropped by parachute. Once, when the family had not eaten for two days, she returned empty-handed after hours of searching.

S.O.S. for Children has set up a fund to ensure that Menira gets the medicine she needs. The £2,000 cost of Menira's trip was met by Professor David Southall, a paediatrician at Keele University, Yorkhill NHS Trust paid for the treatment.

Mission foiled, page 9

## Mental activity 'staves off dementia'

By Jeremy Laurence

THE more you use your brain the less likely you are to succumb to dementia, researchers have found. The "use it or lose it" hypothesis has received new backing from a study which suggests that education is the best defence against the debilitating condition which strikes one in five people over 80.

The study of 7,500 people in Rotterdam aged over 55, published in the *British Medical Journal*, found that those with the equivalent of A levels or university degrees were up to three times less likely to suffer dementia than those whose education ceased at GCSE level. An accompanying editorial suggests that a good education and continuing mental activity may protect against degeneration of the brain cells.

Alternatively, education may increase the number of neuronal contacts linking brain cells so that when some cells die others take over similar tasks, minimising the effects of degeneration.

Alzheimer's, a disease linked with poverty, has risen 12 per cent in the past five years after declining for most of the 20th century. Researchers report in the *British Medical Journal* that the disease is ten times commoner in the poorest tenth of districts in England and Wales than in the richest tenth.

## Gene tests may show Shetland origins

By A Staff Reporter

SCIENTISTS are to study the genes of Shetland islanders in an attempt to establish their racial origins.

The islanders have long debated their roots: some believe they are descended from Vikings who colonised the islands in 800 AD and wiped out the indigenous Celtic population. Others claim they can trace their roots to Pict communities that survived in isolated areas.

Proteins that lie on the surface of white blood cells, and which can determine the compatibility of organ donors and recipients, are to be analysed to try to settle the argument. These human lymphocyte antigens show considerable variation between different ethnic groups and may be used as genetic "markers" to try to trace population movements.

The blood samples will be taken from 100 Shetlanders who can trace their origins back at least three generations. But Brian Smith, archivist for Shetlands Islands Council, doubts that this will settle the argument. "To try to determine the true origin of the Shetlander is quite impossible," he said. "The only way to find out such a thing is through documents, but they fail us when it comes to periods as far back as 800 AD."

## Scientists revive black hole theory

By Nigel Hawkes

THERE is a massive black hole at the centre of our galaxy, according to calculations by scientists in America. They say that the black hole is a radio source called Sagittarius A\*, and is sucking in gas from the surrounding region of space.

The idea that the Milky Way has a black hole in its middle is not new but has recently fallen out of favour because observations have shown that the X-rays believed to be emitted as a result of the black hole gulping in gas were far less powerful than expected. Sagittarius A\* produces only a weak X-ray signal.

Dr Ramesh Narayan, and two colleagues from the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics at Cambridge, Massachusetts, have produced a model that accounts neatly for the observed X-ray flux while retaining the idea of the black hole.

The answer, they report in this week's issue of *Nature*, is that the black hole is itself eating most of the energy it produces. Instead of being emitted as radiation, the energy is carried along with the gas and swallowed into the



black hole, whose mass is about 700,000 times that of the Sun.

Astronomers believe that many galaxies have black holes at their centres because of the behaviour of stars and gas clouds in the vicinity. Their motions are most easily understood by supposing that they are under the influence of a massive black hole up to a million times heavier than the Sun.

However, Sagittarius A\* is inconspicuous except for its radio emissions. Dr Narayan and his colleagues have now explained why this is, by suggesting that gas attracted to the black hole gets hot, but before it has time to radiate its energy it is sucked into the black hole and disappears forever.

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# Quiet tribute to Britain's 'great friend' Roosevelt

**FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON**

nounced on Monday that he would seek his party's nomination to run against Mr. Clinton next year. He holds a commanding lead in a field of nine candidates, with opinion polls putting him 30 points ahead of his closest rival, Phil Gramm, a Texas senator.

However, the campaign is pulling him sharply to the right in search of votes in Republican primaries. Polls show that 70 per cent of the public at large support the weapons ban, but in New Hampshire, where the key first primary is held, nearly half the registered Republicans are gun owners and 25,000 of them are members of the association.

Mr Dole did not consult his advisers before writing to the association. One of them told the *Los Angeles Times*: "We all climbed up and down on him about it. Everybody gave him a bad time. He realised it was a big mistake."

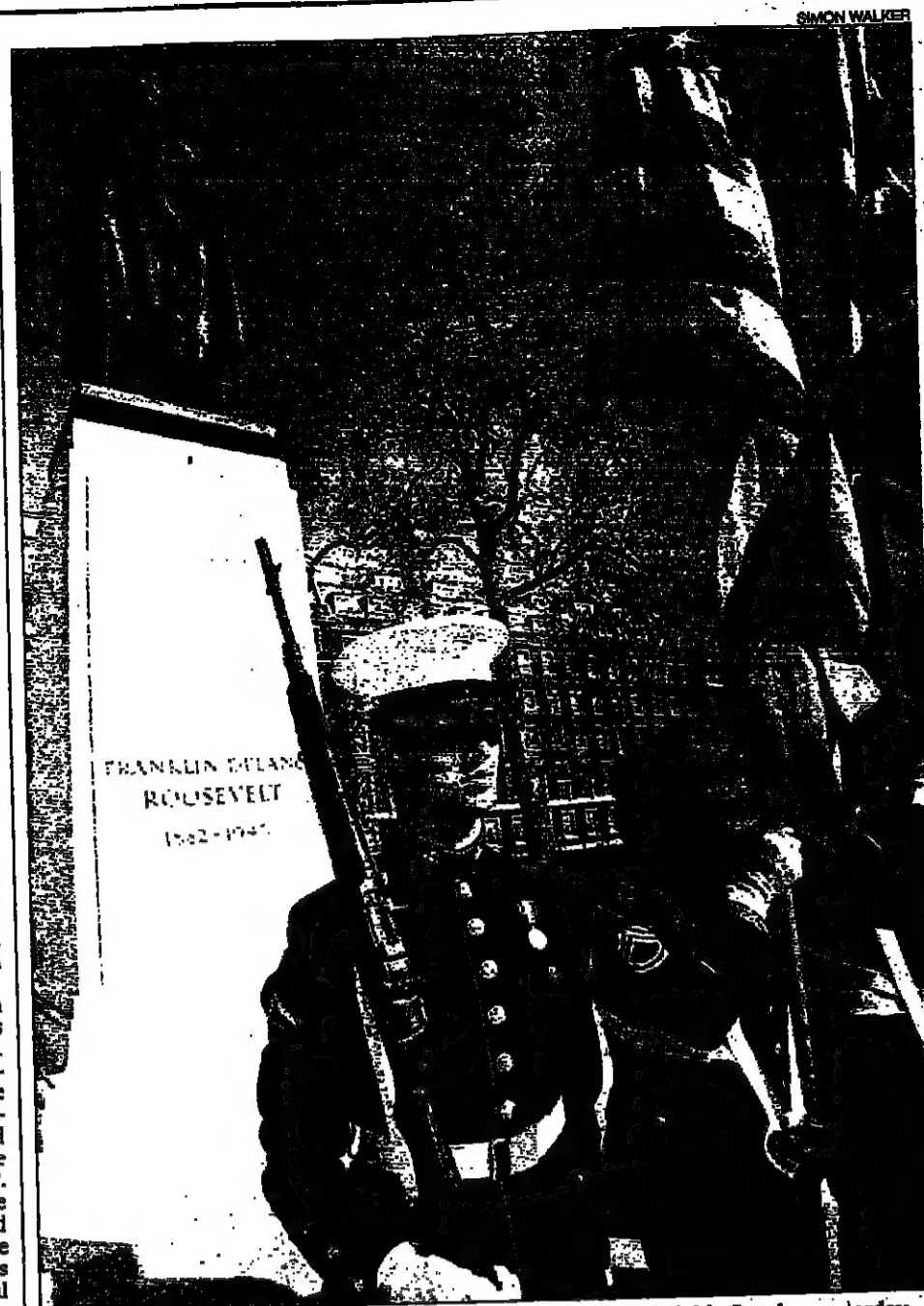
Republicans would probably have no trouble repealing the ban in the House of Representatives, but Democrats have promised to lead a filibuster in the Senate where there was disbelief that Mr. Dole would even try to restore the weapons for sale to the public. Mr. Clinton has prom-

As a measure of the problem, Mr. Dole has created for himself, 100 national organizations, including the Parent-Teacher Association and the American Medical Association, have signed resolutions promising to fight any repeal of the ban on assault weapons.

The campaign is led by America's foremost anti-gun campaigner, Sarah Brady, whose husband, James, was disabled in the assassination attempt on President Reagan.

The Brady Bill, imposing a five-day waiting period on gun purchases, has been opposed by the National Rifle Association.

Mr Doile drew a distinction between his support for gun rights and his opposition to violence. Indeed, he denounced Hollywood for putting profit above common decency by promoting casual sex and casual violence that "poisons the minds of our young people." On a week-long tour, the senator also encouraged school prayer, proving that he is prepared to provide leadership for conservatives on social issues that he has traditionally avoided.



US Marines form a guard of honour at the Roosevelt Memorial in London yesterday

BY JOHN YOUNG

space to protracted and acrimonious debates in Parliament and in the press over the form the memorial should take. Correspondents raised issues ranging from the suitability of the design and its setting to the question of whether, as a victim of poison, the President should be depicted standing or sitting at his desk. Its construction was finally authorized in a Bill passed by both Houses of

In warm sunshine William Crowe, the US Ambassador to Britain, laid a wreath at the Roosevelt Memorial, which bears the inscriptions of the President's four freedoms — freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. He was followed by Princess Michael of Kent; Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons; and Lord Carrington, the former Nato Secretary General, on behalf of The Pilgrims, the Anglo-American society whose members raised the £40,000 needed to pay for

With Lord Carnoy representing the Queen, yesterday's ceremony scarcely bore comparison with the unveiling of the memorial itself, on the third anniversary of Roosevelt's death, by his widow, Eleanor. The guests then included King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, senior Cabinet members and leaders of the diplomatic service, the armed services, and representatives of the Church and the legal profession.

At the unveiling Anise, the Prime Minister, described the statue as a tribute to "a great friend", the successor of Washington and Lincoln, whose services were given in an even wider cause of freedom. Churchill extolled Roosevelt as "the greatest American friend of Britain."

Yesterday there were no speeches, only two short prayers led by the Rt Rev David Slay, the honorary chaplain of The Pilgrims, while a guard of honour from both the British and American armed services provided a reminder of the wartime alliance. While Americans today may recall Roosevelt mainly as the architect of the New Deal, the man who rescued his country from the Great Depression and who instigated far-reaching social and economic reforms, to Britons he remains the friend who came to this country's aid in its hour.

Churchill said of Roosevelt that he had decisively and permanently changed the social and moral axis of mankind by involving the New World irrevocably in the fortunes of the Old.

## How Truman met the call of destiny

**BY IAN BRODIE**

"Is there anything we can do for you? You're the one in trouble now."

Thus it was, 50 years ago yesterday, that Truman, a failed labor-dasher, a Democratic party machine politician and the compromise choice for Vice-President, was catapulted into the presidency amid widespread alarm that he was a nonentity not up to the job.

He had just poured a bourbon in the private sanctum of Speaker Sam Rayburn when someone remembered there was a message for Truman at telephone the White House. He dialed the number and was told to come "as quickly and quietly as possible." Visibly shaken, Truman made for the door. He paused at the threshold and said: "Boys, this is in the room. Something

He raced through the Capitol, shoes pounding on the marble floor, grabbed his hat and was driven to the White House, where Eleanor Rooseveltvelt put an arm on his shoulder and told him that Franklin Roosevelt had died. Truman remained silent for a long time, struggling to find the right words. Finally, he asked: "Is there anything we can do for you?" She replied:

How wrong they were. Buoyed by an inner strength and Midwestern rectitude, Truman became a towering force in shaping global events. Roosevelt had told him nothing of the atomic bomb, but in August Truman ordered two to be dropped on Japan, ending the Second World War. Later, he instigated the Berlin airlift, the Marshall plan to revitalize postwar Europe, America's refusal to yield to Soviet expansion, and the Korean War. Yesterday he was honoured in Washington for his crucial support in the birth of Israel in 1948.



Truman: "nonentity" who became a towering force

President Clinton flew the cottage in Warm Springs, Georgia, where Roosevelt died of a stroke, and sought to take credit for following FDR's legacy. He emphasized the benefits of Roosevelt's Bill of Rights, which guaranteed a college education for returning war veterans, and promoted the education and job training proposals of his own Administration.

He gave an award to Jonas Salk, inventor of the vaccine that halted poliomyelitis, a once-dreaded disease that had paralyzed Roosevelt in his last years.

## US looks for holes in finances of moles

**FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON**

IN the wake of the Aldrich Ames scandal, American intelligence agents are preparing to submit their financial records for scrutiny to prove that they are not spying for a foreign power.

Under an order being drafted for the White House, President Clinton is expected to alter the rules governing access to the previously private files of several million government employees and military personnel. The directive, which will apply to anyone who has clearance for classified information, would allow investigators to delve into bank statements, credit histories and any documents relating to foreign travel.

direct legacy of the Ames affair, in which a senior CIA counter-intelligence officer was found to have spied for the KGB for nearly a decade. Ames is thought to have been paid more than \$2 million

(£128 million) by Moscow.

Since then, the agency has been trying to establish a post-Cold War role for the organization and attempting to rebuild ties with the White House, Congress and the FBI. Yesterday it emerged that the CIA had asked Congress for \$19 million to continue its covert operations in the Middle East to destabilize Iraq and curb military expansion in Iran. This is in-line with the Administration's wish to con-

A smaller group of several hundred thousand people with access to the most sensitive security material will be asked to submit periodic financial statements covering themselves and their families. The change in policy is a

About \$15 million will be spent against Iraq, aimed at weakening but not overthrowing President Saddam Hussein, and funding opposition groups such as the Iraqi National Congress in London.

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A Bosnian Serb crew loading ammunition on their tank at Majevica, overlooking the "safe area" of Tuzla

## Serb major blocks peace flight into Sarajevo

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

IN THE kind of affront to which officials from Western states are growing accustomed, a major in the Bosnian Serb army yesterday cancelled a flight meant to carry diplomats on a peace mission to Sarajevo.

Representatives from the Contact Group of America, Britain, France, Germany, and Russia had hoped to meet Bosnian government leaders in the capital during the morning. The visit, along with meetings in Zagreb and Belgrade, was part of the group's latest attempt to achieve a peace agreement.

Half an hour after the Contact Group was to have arrived, Serb forces fired at least one mortar shell into the city centre, wounding five or six civilians. Sarajevo police kept pedestrians from stepping on the crater or walking through blood on the pave-

ment as they waited for United Nations troops to investigate. In Gorazde, another "safe area" in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serb gunners fired a handful of mortar bombs into the town yesterday.

A UN official meanwhile reported that Bosnian government forces had twice launched helicopter attacks in the "Dorci Vakuf" area of central Bosnia this week in clear violation of the Nato-enforced ban on combat flights.

Michael Williams, the UN spokesman, said: "On Monday a helicopter was observed dropping some bombs or missile projectiles near the town." The helicopter attacked again on Tuesday, he added. "It was a clear and flagrant violation of the no-fly zone."

In Sarajevo, a UN spokesman said that as the helicopter flew over the Serb-held area

on Tuesday, peacekeepers observed muzzle flashes followed by 20 explosions.

Bosnian Serbs have been playing a cat-and-mouse game with peacekeepers and Nato warplanes for the past few weeks. Yesterday's frustrated diplomatic effort is just the latest example of Serb pressure on the UN.

The Serb major told a senior UN official that the Contact Group officials would not be allowed to fly to the city. He suggested that they drive to Sarajevo through Serb-held territory, which would have taken five hours longer than flying from Zagreb.

The officer said he was acting on orders from General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb Army. On Tuesday night, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, gave permission for the flight.

Since they fired on an American relief flight on Saturday, the Serbs have kept the UN-controlled airport out of commission with threats to target other aircraft.

"It is amazing," said a Western diplomat in disbelief. "This must be the most powerful country in the world if they can send away the big powers just like that."

Last year the Serbs in effect vetoed a long-planned visit to the besieged capital by the Pope. In that case, as in many others, senior officials issued veiled threats about not being able to guarantee the safety of the flight in question.

A number of other senior international figures have been similarly prevented from visiting the Bosnian capital, including President Demirel of Turkey.

Heart girl goes home, page 7

## Troops storm parliament to end Belorussia protest

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

ARMED soldiers stormed into the parliament of the former Soviet republic of Belorussia yesterday to quell nationalist opposition deputies on hunger strike against the administration of President Lukashenko. Mechaslav Grib, the parliamentary chairman, said: "Belorussia has never been so close to civil war."

The Popular Front deputies are protesting against a planned referendum on extending presidential powers. They accuse Mr Lukashenko of "taking the Central Asian path" in other words, following the leaders of the former Soviet republics of Central Asia on the road to authoritarian rule.

Mr Lukashenko wants to accompany the parliamentary elections due on May 14 with a snap referendum asking the people to give him more powers over the economy and in the battle against crime. The key question would, if

approved, change the constitution to allow Mr Lukashenko to dissolve the parliament at will.

In a furious speech to the assembly on Tuesday, delivered over the heads of the hunger-striking deputies, sitting on the steps of the parliamentary rostrum, Mr Lukashenko yelled that even if



Lukashenko: seeking power over parliament

## Tajik rebels fight on

Dushanbe: Russian-led border guards in Tajikistan and rebels from the eastern province of Gorno-Badakhshan fought yesterday, but said they had the situation under control.

The clashes, in which the Russian-dominated contingent of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) troops said it had inflicted heavy losses, came after five days of fighting with separate Islamic rebels from neighbouring Afghanistan.

Andrei Nikolayev, commander of Russian border

troops, said 34 Commonwealth border guards had been killed and more than 50 wounded since last Friday. He said the total rebel death toll was about 200. "We fully control the situation," he added.

Peace talks between the border troops and leaders of the Gorno-Badakhshan rebels failed to produce any agreement, border command sources said. The Tajik Government said, however, that it was still ready to resume negotiations in Moscow in the next few days. (Reuters)

the assembly voted to block the referendum, he would go ahead and dissolve the parliament anyway. Yesterday's move showed that he means business.

Mr Lukashenko, a populist political outsider and collective farm manager, was elected president last year by an overwhelming majority, in the teeth of opposition both from the then former Communist government and the nationalist Popular Front. Both are now to differing degrees determined to bring him down.

In his election campaign, Mr Lukashenko pledged to improve living standards through closer relations with Russia, the rebuilding of the Soviet Union, and a war against official corruption. Since then, his anti-corruption campaign has become totally bogged down by bureaucratic and police resistance, the heavily subsidised economy has continued to decline, the provisional currency has dropped steeply in value, and Russia has refused to come to Belorussia's aid in agreeing to a currency union.

Mr Lukashenko's growing exasperation with the parliament and authoritarian tendencies is part of a general trend. The Ukrainian parliament yesterday also saw heated debate over a law extending the powers of President Kuchma. Mr Kuchma and members of his Government walked out in protest when a parliamentary commission chairman said that the law would lead to presidential dictatorship and the virtual extinction of elected local government.

## Economic black day for Moscow

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

THREE strokes of economic bad news in Russia yesterday underlined how difficult the country's situation remains and why Russia will be keen to receive the first of its International Monetary Fund loans, part of a \$6.8 billion package agreed last month.

The rouble slipped below 5,000 to the dollar for the first time, the Finance Minister admitted that revenues are \$1.4 billion short for the first quarter of this year, and thousands of Russian miners and workers in Siberia and the Far East staged a one-day strike to demand the release of government credits so that their long-delayed wages can be paid.

The IMF's loan to Russia — the second biggest in its history — is the biggest to Russia from any single Western source. The first \$1 billion will be paid to Russia this month, followed by \$500 million on a monthly basis.

In spite of yesterday's bad news, the loan is a striking sign of how Russia's economic and political image has recovered from its all-time low at the start of the bloody Chechen war last December. Last month Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, praised Russia's "bold and ambitious" economic reform programme, and said he believed the Russian economy may begin to grow again this year, after four years of steep decline.

Leading article, page 15

## O.J. police caught out on 'trail of blood'

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A POLICE witness has been caught in a lie by defence lawyers in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, who pressed home their advantage by formally accusing the prosecution of trying to engineer a mistrial.

Barry Scheck, the defence attorney, resumed his attack on Dennis Fung, who was in charge of collecting evidence at the scene of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, the one-time footballer's former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend. Mr Scheck, the surprise star of the Simpson trial, used photographs, video

tape and excited rhetoric to tie Mr Fung in knots and open gaps in the "trail of blood" that prosecutors claim links Mr Simpson to the killings.

Mr Scheck first challenged Mr Fung to point out blood on a gate near Brown Simpson's apartment in a photograph taken the day after she died. "Where is it, Mr Fung? Where is it?" the lawyer cried. His words are likely to haunt the prosecution, for Mr Fung could not see the blood in the first picture, although he could in another, taken three weeks later, which Mr Scheck produced.

Later on Tuesday, Mr Scheck revealed that more apparently incriminating blood

on socks taken from Mr Simpson's bedroom was not discovered until seven weeks after the murders. Both revelations will bolster the defence argument that police framed Mr Simpson.

The worst was yet to come for the tired Mr Fung, who strenuously denied touching with bare hands an envelope found near Goldman's body. Mr Scheck promptly showed a video freeze-frame of him doing precisely that.

Mr Simpson's defence, meanwhile, filed a motion demanding an investigation into the dismissal of a black juror last week. The motion accused prosecutors of trying to weed out pro-Simpson jurors.

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# Britain to stop making nuclear arms material

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is expected to announce next week an end to the production of weapons-grade nuclear material as part of a policy decision to demonstrate the Government's commitment to disarmament.

The announcement, to be made by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, in New York on Tuesday, follows the decision to scrap the RAF's WE177 nuclear free-fall bomb nine years earlier than planned, and to end nuclear testing.

Although the Government is ready to sign a convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, the Ministry of Defence will go ahead with recycling the nuclear fuel in the warheads of the 100 WE177 bombs. The fuel from the bombs, which are to be scrapped by 1998, will be added to the limited stockpile of weapons-grade material in Britain.

It is understood that Britain would not have enough fissile material for the new Trident nuclear warheads, designed by the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire, without recycling the fuel from the WE177 bombs.

All weapons-grade nuclear material is produced under contract by British Nuclear Fuels at their Magnox repro-

cessing plant at Sellafield, near Whitehaven in Cumbria. The weapons-grade fuel production represents 10 per cent of its business.

An agreement was reached last month on a mandate for a convention banning the production of fissile material "for explosive purposes".

Mr Hurd's announcement is expected during a speech in New York at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review and extension conference. The five nuclear powers are pushing for an unconditional and indefinite extension that would require approval by just over 50 per cent of the 175 member nations.

Mr Hurd will also reconfirm the Government's willingness to consider entering nuclear arms negotiations, but only when the arsenals of the United States and Russia have been reduced to a much lower level.

Under the Start 2 (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty, which has yet to be ratified, Washington and Moscow have agreed to reduce their strategic nuclear warhead stocks to 3,500 each by 2003.

British defence sources said yesterday that by the time Start 2 was implemented, Britain's nuclear warhead stocks would still represent less than 10 per cent of the 3,500 ceiling. Although the

Ministry of Defence declined to say how many warheads would be in the British arsenal, the indications are that the total would be between 300 and 350.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, announced in 1993 that no more than 96 warheads would be carried on each of the four Trident submarines. Trident will be Britain's sole nuclear deterrent system once the WE177 bombs have been scrapped.

Government policy on Britain's possible involvement in nuclear arms reduction talks was set by Sir Geoffrey Howe, when he was Foreign Secretary. In a speech to the United Nations Security Council in 1982, Sir Geoffrey said that Britain would consider joining negotiations under certain circumstances.

British defence sources are optimistic that the conference in New York will lead to an indefinite extension of the treaty. Underlining the positive influence the treaty has had since being signed 25 years ago, the sources said that in the 1960s it was feared that there could be between 25 and 30 more nuclear weapons states by the end of the century. Only three additional countries are known to possess, or to have the capability to produce, nuclear weapons: Israel, India and Pakistan.



Colditz castle, the Germans' supposedly escape-proof prison for allied officers in the Second World War

## Colditz veterans shun 'sales pitch'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN COLDITZ

THE burghers of Colditz, site of the fortress prison for Allied troublemakers, will this weekend mark their liberation with concerts, a debate and exhibitions that have half an eye on luring new British investors to save the cold, sinister castle. Colditz veterans, concerned that the commemorations are a publicity stunt and sales pitch, disapprove and are staying away.

The 700-year-old castle — used after the war as a mental asylum and an old people's home — has left a lasting mark on the British consciousness, exemplifying a chirpy public-school spirit that can overcome the most trying of circumstances. Many of the relics featured in the film and book are still to be seen: the mousetrap converted into a radio transmitter, the German medals made from cardboard, the copied uniforms, the sketches for a 140ft tunnel underneath the vast granite walls.

Pat Reid, author of *The Colditz Story*, documents 176 escape attempts, 31 of which were successful. Lieutenant Airey Neave — later to be killed by an Irish terrorist bomb — managed after a theatre performance to march past the guards in a home-made Wehrmacht uniform. Others absented out of the

kitchen window or escaped from the infirmary.

Apart from a few enthusiasts, such as Anne Kathrin Gordan, 30, the museum director, the Germans have shown little interest in the wartime history of the castle.

This is partly because the British adventure stories project the German guards as particularly numbskulled. As a result, there have been no German millionaires rushing to invest in the castle. The signs of decay are everywhere and it was certainly better lit (there were strong searchlights despite the blackout) and more lively during the

war. "There is no shortage of ideas for the castle, but there is simply no money to realise them," says Manfred Heinz, the Mayor of Colditz.

More than £30 million would be needed to turn the castle into a going concern, to convert parts of it into a hotel and to restore the roof. Will the weekend events be the breakthrough? Terry Charman and James Taylor, from the Imperial War Museum, are due to lead a discussion, a former prisoner's paintings of castle life will be on display, and members of the Royal British Legion will lay wreaths. Former German

guards will also be there. However, the Colditz Association, which keeps former prisoners in touch, wants nothing to do with it all: members think that it smacks of commercialism.

The issue has diverted attention from a different dilemma — the reordering of Colditz in German history. The official version under the East German regime was that the Colditz prisoners — officers from Britain, France, Poland and Belgium — were pampered. They included Giles Romilly, Churchill's nephew, and were monitored, quite closely by Swiss diplomats to ensure that the Germans were sticking to the Geneva Convention.

Below the fortress, in an armaments factory, Soviet prisoners and Hungarian Jews were treated atrociously by the SS. The contrast with the Colditz officers, their musical evenings and their escape schemes, could not be more vivid. For East Germans it was a sign that the two-class system existed even during the war. Somewhere between this old communist interpretation and the sentimental British version (heavily influenced by the film starring John Mills and Eric Portman) it may be possible to chart a realistic account.



John Mills, left, and Eric Portman in a scene from the film based on Pat Reid's *The Colditz Story*

## Cult 'tried out gas on followers'

Moscow: A Japanese religious sect suspected of carrying out the Tokyo subway attack last month tested an unidentified nerve gas on its Russian followers, a former cult member has told a Moscow court.

The news came as President Yeltsin yesterday asked the Federal Security Service to investigate the activities of the Aum Shinrikyo sect in Russia.

Marina Romandina, 19, appeared in court on Tuesday on behalf of a parents' group that is suing the Japanese sect for allegedly corrupting Russian youth. She said a nerve gas used on sect members left many suffering stomach problems, headaches, vomiting and nose-bleeds. (AP)

## Victim of aerosol blast wins fight

Senlis, France: The head of Reckitt and Coleman's French operations was given a 12-month suspended jail sentence, here yesterday over a case in which a man had most of his face and hands blown off in an aerosol explosion. Lukas Beyeler, 60, was also ordered to pay 2 million francs (about £260,000) compensation. Lawyers for Beyeler said an appeal would be made. (AP)

## Nabokov home burnt down

St Petersburg: The former country house of Vladimir Nabokov, the author of , has been destroyed by fire. He spent little time in the house, which he inherited in 1916, before fleeing the Bolshevik Revolution for the United States in 1918. Police said they could not rule out an arson attack on the building, which became a state-run museum in 1987. (Reuters)

## Economy gives Mahathir boost

Kuala Lumpur: Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, warned his ruling coalition yesterday against complacency in the national election on April 24 and 25. The economy has been growing at 8 per cent for seven years and the main opposition Democratic Action Party concedes it is all but impossible to beat the coalition. (Reuters)

## Tight squeeze

Brooklyn Heights, Ohio: A man arrested for speeding and other motoring offences was changing into prison uniform when his pet boa popped out of his boxer shorts. He told police he was trying to keep the snake warm, and was later released on bail. (AP)

## Italian newspaper folds

By JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PUBLICATION was suspended yesterday at *La Voce*, an independent conservative daily newspaper founded a year ago by Indro Montanelli, 55, the grand old man of Italian journalism.

The Milan-based newspaper, which sold about 400,000 copies a day at first, had been in financial difficulty for some time, with circulation falling to about 60,000 copies. What is almost certain to be the final edition carried a front-page headline declaring

**laVoce**

that it was il giorno degli sciocchi (the day of the jackals) and a photograph of the sprightly editor wearing a gag.

Signor Montanelli, in a valedictory editorial, said he would support efforts by the 30 journalists on the staff of *La Voce* (The Voice), to form a co-operative to save it. He said, however, that even if they succeeded, he was too weary to resume editing it.

"There are various explanations for our crisis: the fall in advertising revenue caused by TV, the rise in costs... and the distortion of the market caused by the big dailies with their supplements, inserts and gadgets of every type." Signor Montanelli wrote in his editorial.

He also made one last attack on Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, and Italy's new Right. "We appealed too much to an elite, an audience which did not feel represented by this political Right," he said.



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## Vatican rejects execution attack

By JOHN PHILLIPS

THE semi-official Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, yesterday rejected criticism by the Italian Left that the Pope should have intervened to try to save Nicholas Ingram from the electric chair. The accusation of hypocrisy was made by *L'Unità*, the

journal of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which lamented the Holy See's failure in the run-up to Easter to attempt a diplomatic mediation to save the life of the British-born murderer. The Pope's latest encyclical, published last week, condemns executions. "The Catholic Church has,

as ever, very grave responsibilities," *L'Unità* said, "and in recent days before one of the most significant feast days of the religious calendar, the voice of the Pope was not heard." The Vatican paper called the article "demagogic disinformation" and said the Church's position on executions was absolutely clear.

## Balladur knocked back in polls

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

EDOUARD BALLADUR'S natural pessimism will have been bolstered yesterday by opinion polls suggesting that he is likely to be eliminated in the first round of France's presidential election.

The French Prime Minister, once an overwhelming favourite to succeed President Mitterrand, has slipped further behind his Gaullist rival, Jacques Chirac, 62, and Lionel Jospin, 57, the Socialist, according to the polls. These credit M Chirac with about 26 per cent of the vote, M Jospin with about 21 per cent and M Balladur with about 19 per cent.

For M Balladur, 65, the polls will be particularly disappointing as they follow a period of renewed optimism during which his supporters convinced themselves that victory was tangible. Shaking off his diffident, bourgeois image, he had plunged into the race with all the enthusiasm of a man who knew his political future was at stake, shaking hands and kissing babies with apparent glee.

For a time, the tactic worked and he halted the dramatic decline in his popularity that had started almost as soon as his campaign began in January. In contrast, the mood in the Socialist camp was more relaxed yesterday as it appeared increasingly likely that M Jospin would feature in a traditional showdown between the Left and the Right in the second round.

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Kigali gives warning of environmental disaster as Tutsi exiles return with million-strong herd

## Cattle trek threatens Rwandan game park

FROM SAM KILEY IN AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

AN INFLUX of more than a million cattle herded by Rwanda's Tutsi refugees returning home after 36 years in exile threatens to overwhelm the country's largest national park, causing an ecological disaster and a huge collapse of the cattle population within three months.

Only 23,000 Tutsis who fled Rwanda's Hutu revolution against the monarchy in 1959, or their descendants, have been registered as returning to their homeland. But they have driven huge herds of long-horned Ashanti cattle ahead of them. The Rwandan Government is publicly committed to trying to save Akagera National Park, in the north of the country, from overgrazing.

But privately, officials say its demise to grazing is inevitable because Rwanda, until last year's genocide of Tutsis, was Africa's most densely populated country. "We have too many people, and not enough land. There is no way that we

can sustain having a seventh of our land area as national park while people have nowhere to live and farm," said a Kigali official. Lillian Wong, the head of Britain's mission to Rwanda, said: "This is a major emergency."

It is estimated that Rwanda's birth rate will lead to the human population doubling every 19 years. Many analysts believe that a root cause of last year's mass bloodletting was the struggle for control of ever-dwindling land resources. The Akagera, a vast park of rolling grassland and acacia bush, is the country's last preserve of zebra, lion, and plains game. Rwanda will one day have to find room for 2.2 million Hutus who fled last year. Much of their land has already been occupied by returning Tutsis from Burundi, Zaire, and Uganda.

The returning Tutsis, organised to return to boost the tribe's population after it was reduced from 1.1 million to



Tutsi refugees share Akagera Park's water supply with their long-horned cattle. But when the rains stop, many of the animals will face death

around 80,000 last year, are aware of the ecological impact of their herds, but can see little reason to protect the park.

The Government is now struggling with how to set about a mass reduction of cattle among its most loyal constituents. Tutsis living in exile in Rwanda formed the

backbone of the Rwandan Patriotic Front which took power last year, supplied most of its soldiers, and much of its funding. One answer is the mass slaughter of cattle.

But Tutsis rarely eat beef and are vehemently against riding themselves of their traditional store of wealth,

especially if the meat ends up in the bellies of Hutus living in refugee camps outside Rwanda, many of whom participated in the genocide of their families. The Government has set aside small tracts of land for the resettlement of returning Tutsis and insists they bring back no more than 15

cattle per plot. But it also faces the need to reduce the cattle population, now standing at 750,000 and soon to reach 1.1 million, by 60 per cent. Even with the park, there is only enough grazing in the area for about 200,000 head. So many cattle have been moved from Uganda to Rwanda that beef

prices in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, have doubled. In July the rains will stop, and the grass will be gone. "They will have to kill the cows, return to Uganda, or the cattle will die in July anyway," said Sean Obrey, the operations manager for the American Refugee Committee.

## Grenade attack kills 28 refugees

Nairobi: Raiders armed with rifles and grenades killed 28 people on an island in Lake Kivu and at a Rwandan refugee camp near by in Zaire, a United Nations agency reported yesterday.

Fifty-four people were wounded, 16 seriously. Many were women and children housed in the camp on the western shore of the lake, which separates Rwanda and Zaire. The area has been the scene of numerous cross-border attacks, but UN officials said they were not sure if the attacks were conducted by Rwandan Tutsis in retaliation for raids into Rwanda by extremist Hutus, many of whom are housed in Zairean refugee camps.

There is a great deal of anger and resentment within Rwanda over what Tutsi survivors of last year's genocide see as favoured treatment of Rwandan Hutu refugees. The new Tutsi-led Government in Rwanda has halted UN food shipments to a million Rwandan refugees in dozens of camps near Bukavu and Goma, Zaire.

Thousands of Rwandans demonstrated on Tuesday outside the headquarters of the UN mission in Kigali, demanding that it leave the country. (AP)

## Mandela drama turns into farce

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE Winnie Mandela affair yesterday descended from the level of a domestic soap opera to a political farce. President Mandela, after long hours of tense telephone communication from Abu Dhabi, where he is on a trade and confidence-building tour of Gulf states, decided to reinstate his estranged wife in her post as Deputy Minister for Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

It seems likely, however, that Mrs Mandela will not be long in the job. Brigitte Mabandla, the African National Congress activist who was appointed to succeed her, has been asked to step down "for a few hours".

A statement from Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, said Mrs Mandela had been informed of the decision and said Mr Mandela would reconsider his wife's position on his return from the Gulf today. The appointment of Mrs Mabandla had been reversed.

The bizarre reinstatement of Mrs Mandela follows the President's consultation with his lawyer, Nicholas Hayson, and Mr Mbeki. They were faced with having to reply to Mrs Mandela's lawsuit demanding her reinstatement by today, with a day in court set for April 25.

Mrs Mandela claimed that her sacking was unlawful and unconstitutional. Although the constitution gives the President a free hand to sack ministers or deputy ministers in the interests of good governance, it stipulates that he must do it after consultation with other party leaders participating in the Government of National Unity.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Home Minister and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, swore an affidavit in support of Mrs Mandela, saying he was not consulted.

## MPs urge Rabin to confront Hamas

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAEL'S 120-seat Knesset was recalled yesterday to debate the deteriorating security situation, six deputies from the ruling Labour Party joined the right-wing opposition to demand that troops be sent to autonomous Gaza to attack Islamic militants.

The backbench revolt reflected growing anxiety over the wave of deadly suicide attacks organised by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad.

The call for Israeli action was directed at Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister. It was made despite the crack-down ordered by Yasser Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO, which has resulted in the arrest of 300 Gaza extremists and raised the spectre of civil war in Gaza.

"The security situation in Gaza is intolerable. We cannot rely on the Palestinian Authority anymore," said Eli Dayan, a Labour rebel.

The emergency session was prompted by Sunday's suicide attacks in the Gaza Strip in which eight people died. The fanaticism that Israel faces was illustrated in a Gaza court where it was disclosed that suicide bombers aged from 14 to 19 had been buried alive to test their courage.



Rabin: under pressure from Labour rebels

## Rifkind offers help on Pretoria defence cuts

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

BRITAIN is to offer South Africa further help in streamlining its defence forces, according to Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, who left here yesterday after a 60-hour tour of the country en route to Zimbabwe.

Mr Rifkind, speaking at the University of the Witwatersrand, said that he hoped British advisers helping the new military force, arising from the integration of the South African Defence Force, the armed wings of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, and the armed forces of the homelands, would find a new role at the end of the process. While Mr Rifkind made it

clear that it would be up to the South African Government to seek further help, he also pointed out that the next stage would be streamlining the new forces. "We have a lot of experience in this," he said. "We have seen our armed forces decrease by 70,000 to 80,000 troops. We have been able to help those who leave by training and with finance, so that 80 per cent of those who left obtained regular employment."

Mr Rifkind spoke of the close relationship emerging between the two countries' defence forces and their defence manufacturing industries, where there are 13 joint ventures under way.

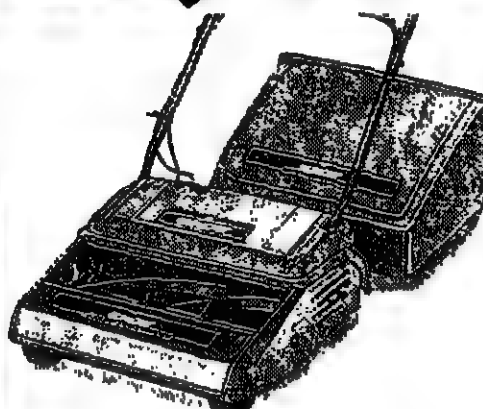
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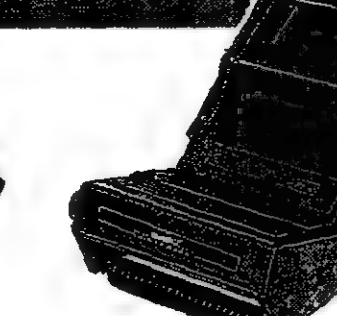
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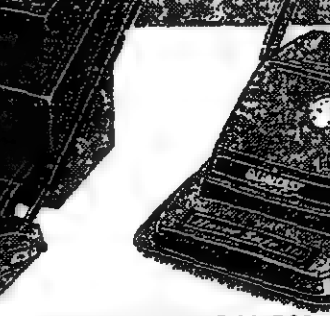
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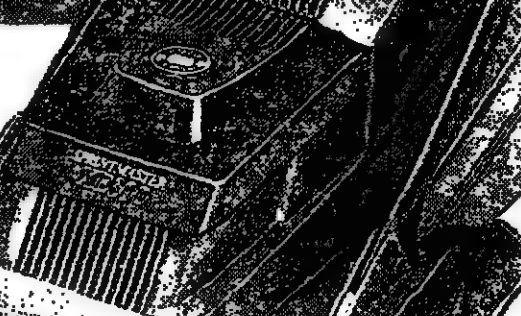
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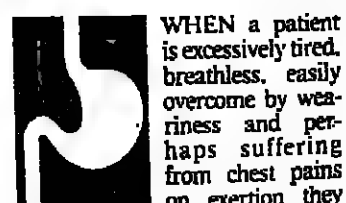
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□ Unexplained anaemia and gastric disease □ The after-effects of an operation □ The connection between schizophrenia and diabetes



WHEN a patient is excessively tired, breathless, easily overcome by weariness and perhaps suffering from chest pains on exertion they need no encouragement to have their anaemia investigated. Other symptoms of an iron deficiency anaemia, apart from the pallor which can be misleading, include a shiny red tongue, sores around the mouth and changes in the nails, which are sometimes concave and spoon-shaped.

If there is obvious blood loss, such as heavy menstruation, or if the diet is demonstrably deficient in iron, the patient's co-operation is assured. Difficulties arise when the patient is feeling well and enjoys a well-balanced diet but a blood test has confirmed that they have a mild iron deficiency anaemia. These patients may not be so enthusiastic about having the additional tests, including endoscopic examinations, which their condition warrants.

If the anaemia has no apparent cause, the first place to look for one is in the gastro-intestinal tract.

## Adding up the clues



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Pulse magazine reports that at the recent British Society of Gastroenterology Spring meeting there was agreement that it was important, often vital, that doctors should consider that unexplained anaemia had its origins in disease of the gastro-intestinal tract until it was proved otherwise. Research from Nottingham City Hospital showed that in 105 anaemic patients investigated, 59 per cent had a gastro-intestinal cause. Several of these cases had a previously undiagnosed malignancy. Dr Anthony Stellan, a general practitioner in Dover,

investigated 26 anaemic patients over the age of 50: 30 per cent had gastro-intestinal disease. The cause can be at any point in the length of the gastro-intestinal tract: investigations may have to be conducted from either, or both, ends of it.

A recent working party with members from the Royal College of Physicians, Surgeons and Anaesthetists the British Society of Gastroenterology, agreed guidelines on what would be appropriate reasons for doctors to ask for endoscopic examinations

of the upper gastro-intestinal tract: oesophagus, stomach and duodenum, for their patients. Their conclusions have been published in the *British Medical Journal* and among the 15 indications warranting further examination are unexplained iron deficiency anaemia, unexplained weight loss or vomiting. Gastro-intestinal bleeding, any difficulty in swallowing, severe or moderate long-standing upper abdominal pain or heartburn, and suspected or established gastric ulceration are other indications on the list.

The committee also dealt with the problem of when to refer a patient with indigestion to a consultant so that they might have an endoscopic examination. Any patient over 45 who has recently developed dyspepsia, or whose symptoms have changed, needs endoscopic examination as soon as possible. Young patients should also be referred if they are known to be infected with *Helicobacter pylori* or have other risk factors. Patients with dyspepsia, which fails to respond to treatment, or if long treatment with the new anti-indigestion drugs is intended, also need endoscopic investigation.

## After surgery



SHORT-TERM problems after surgery are anticipated, and relatives accept that some patients, particularly those who are older or who have other medical conditions, might be confused post-operatively, especially at night.

In most cases morale, intelligence and memory have apparently returned to normal within a few days. In some cases the trouble is more persistent when he or she returns home. Dr Rachel Vicars and Dr Christopher Hamming, two specialists in anaesthesia, have recently analysed the causes of post-operative memory loss in *The Practitioner's* column, "Everyday Problems".

They estimate that 15 per cent of patients have some long-term problems. The most common symptoms of post-operative change are extreme tiredness and lethargy, inability to concentrate and some loss of memory. In

other cases, memory loss or reduction in mental aptitude were the most obvious features.

Certain operations are more likely to be troublesome than others, and age and pre-existing poor health can predispose patients to post-operative problems. Those already taking some drugs are more apt to be confused post-operatively if they are suddenly withdrawn. Alcohol is among these drugs and patients should, if there is time, gradually reduce their intake before surgery.

## Missing link



THERE seems to be little in common between schizophrenia and diabetes, yet research workers in Britain and the United States have

discovered separately a remarkable link between them.

The magazine *General Practitioner* reports that in one American survey, more than half of the patients over 70 who were attending psychiatric clinics with schizo-

phrenia also had non-insulin dependent diabetes. The same phenomena has also been observed elsewhere in America.

Geneticists at the Institute of Psychiatry in London have established a similar link. They looked into the family medical history of 121 schizophrenic patients and contrasted them with 115 controls similar in all ways — other than in not having that illness. Very close relatives of patients with schizophrenia were ten times more likely to have insulin-dependent diabetes.

There is no evidence as to the nature of the link between diabetes and schizophrenia. However, research workers from the University of Nottingham and the Royal United Hospital in Bath have recently offered a possible explanation of why diabetic mothers are four times more likely to have a baby with a congenital abnormality. Research has shown an association in embryos between high blood sugar levels, folate deficiency and foetal abnormalities. All women hoping to become pregnant should take additional folic acid. This may be particularly important if they are diabetic.

# Can life really drive you mad?

Most people believe that stress is the cause of mental illness, but a test case failed in court yesterday. Dr Simon Wessely explains why.

Britain's elite regiments have not had a good press recently, as newspapers have devoted attention to the alcoholic rampages of off-duty soldiers. Some of the most damaging stories surfaced during a bitterly contested hearing in the High Court in January of this year. Mr Justice Popplewell delivered his judgment yesterday.

This was the case brought by Alastair Green, a young officer formerly of the 7th Royal Horse Artillery (an elite airborne regiment), against his brother officers and the Ministry of Defence. Mr Green told the court he had been subject to a systematic campaign of bullying while a junior officer in the regiment ten years ago. He described various humiliations, such as being tied naked to a cannon outside the officer's mess, all reported in lurid detail.

The officers concerned accepted that on occasions, drinking large amounts of alcohol and then behaving in

ways which the rest of us, except those in rugby clubs, might regard as silly was part and parcel of mess life, but they vehemently denied bullying or humiliation.

But Mr Green claimed something more than simply being the victim of unwelcome bullying. He claimed that his experiences in the regiment had, in the vernacular, driven him mad. There was no dispute that Mr Green's Army career was ended when he suffered a psychotic breakdown, and that he continued to have further breakdowns after leaving the Army. In court, his account of the horror of mental illness was particularly moving.

The questions facing Mr Justice Popplewell were

straightforward. First, did the events happen as Mr Green described? Second, if they occurred, could they cause psychosis? This question sounded straightforward, but providing an answer proved very difficult for the many psychiatrists, including myself, who gave evidence.

Many people may wonder why the psychiatrists were unable to agree on this simple question. It seems obvious that stress can cause mental illness. Those who have experienced intolerable stress, such as soldiers in combat, or survivors of disasters, frequently develop disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety or depression, which are psychologically understandable reactions to



Sandhurst cadets: joining the Army, especially an elite regiment, is a source of stress, and new recruits have an increased rate of schizophrenia

trauma. However, they do not commonly develop psychosis. There was nothing understandable about Mr Green's illness, or the terrifying delusions to which he was subject.

Just as those who endure severe stress do not inevitably, or even frequently, develop psychosis, most psychotic illnesses are not preceded by severe stress either. Thus stress is neither a necessary nor a sufficient cause of psychosis. All the psychiatrists agreed that the cause of psychosis remains unknown, although genetics certainly play a substantial role.

So even if the bullying had occurred, it did not cause the young officer's illness — but did it trigger or precipitate it? It was argued that Mr Green may have been going to get ill at some time, but without his experiences he could have expected several more productive years.

Most studies have found that people who develop schizophrenia are more likely to recall a significant life event in the weeks or months before their illness when compared to those who have not developed the illness. No psychiatrist would ever neglect meticulous examination of a person's background and recent history for clues about their illness. But simply asking people to recall recent significant events can be misleading. Before it was known that

Down's syndrome was due to a chromosome abnormality, many doctors believed that stress in pregnancy played a role, and studies were published showing that pregnancies that led to a Down's birth were, indeed, more stressful than normal pregnancies. We

now know this was an example of mothers trying desperately to find a reason why they had delivered a handicapped baby.

Researchers into the relationship between stress and psychosis are aware of this problem. Mr Justice Popplewell was thus advised to pay attention to those studies that used reliable methods, such as the lengthy interviews developed by Professor George Brown and Dr Tirril Harris of Bedford College, London, and ignore the rest.

The best studies confirm that there is an increased risk of stressful life events in the weeks before the onset of schizophrenia. However, some of these events are rather common, such as illness of a

family member, a minor violation of the law, losing a pet, or even going on holiday — the kind of thing that happens to everyone several times a year. So researchers have concluded that if life events trigger schizophrenia, it is only by a few weeks.

If one particular event could be prevented, another one would be along shortly anyway.

The best studies of manic depression have been contradictory — two found an effect of life events, two did not. Furthermore, nearly all the episodes studied were relapses of the illness, and not the first episode.

But joining the Army, especially an elite regiment, is itself a source of stress. One study has shown that new recruits have an increased rate of schizophrenia, whether bullied or not.

So after all the psychiatric arguments, Mr Justice Popplewell might well have felt perplexed. He heard an experienced clinician, Mr Green's own psychiatrist, ar-

gue with conviction from clinical practice that life events did trigger manic depression. He also heard academic arguments that clinical experience sometimes misleads, and that the research literature was not proven.

It was an important case, and not just for the young man concerned. Manic depression is not uncommon. If life events were the cause of the illness, other sufferers might resort to litigation.

The judge decided that the officer was not bullied and he exonerated all but one of the officers. Strictly speaking, there was thus no need for the judge to answer the wider question of whether stress causes manic depression, but given its importance, he did so anyway. He was not persuaded that stress caused the case of manic depression, although he agreed it might be implicated in relapse.

We still do not know what causes devastating disorders such as manic depression and schizophrenia. The person who finds out will undoubtedly get a Nobel prize.

Dr Simon Wessely is Senior Lecturer in Psychological Medicine at King's College School of Medicine.

## Doctors believed that stress had a role in Down's syndrome

# Take care of your stiff neck

People with stiff necks or bad backs often turn to chiropractors or osteopaths because conventional medical treatment for these conditions is limited. Painkillers may have side-effects, and physiotherapy is still not universally available in general practice.

It may well be wrong, however, to assume that alternative remedies are harmless. A recent report by Professor Edward Ernst, of the Centre for Complementary Medicine at the University of Exeter, published in the *International Journal of Risk and Safety in Medicine*, is a wide-ranging review of the world literature on osteopathic and chiropractic manipulation of the neck. He says that although reports of serious complications are rare, there is no systematic method of collecting statistics on the overall number of problems, and many probably go unreported.

The most serious accidents after manipulation are vascular. These include dissection of the arteries in the neck, vascular spasm and temporary interruption of the blood-flow to the brain. Professor Ernst emphasises that such accidents are rare, probably between one and four per million of treatments, but a third of

## Dr Kieran Sweeney on the possible complications of manipulation

patients who suffer them have severe long-term damage through paralysis or stroke.

While the number of vascular complications can be only guessed at, the rate of other complications — for example of fractures, slipped discs or dislocation — is totally unknown. Fractures after neck manipulation are extremely rare, but they are most likely to occur in patients who have osteoporosis. These are the very patients who may seek alternative therapy because of the pain their condition can produce.

Most chiropractors and osteopaths X-ray patients who complain of stiff necks, but the demineralisation of the bone would have to be very advanced before it would show up on a normal X-ray. Obviously, the therapists cannot be expected to assess the structure of vertebral arteries, which requires complex, risky and expensive radiological imaging.

Finally, there are the minor complaints, such as headache and neck pain, which Professor Ernst feels should be included under complications.

One study in 1991 cited 25 such complications in a series of 75,000 neck manipulations. Graham Mason, a member of the Council of the British Society of Osteopathy, acknowledges that there is little research evidence to prove the safety of neck manipulation. He points out, however, that the continuing low costs of professional indemnity for osteopaths is a strong indirect indicator of the safety of these techniques.

The vigorous manipulations of the neck which are most often the cause of rare, serious complications form a very small part of the osteopath's repertoire. Gentle stretching and relaxation techniques are much more common, he said.

At Exeter, Professor Ernst is setting about the scientific assessment of complementary health treatments using randomised controlled trials. He believes that unless researchers in complementary health adhere to such scientific standards, and publish well-organised studies, they will remain on the periphery of medicine.

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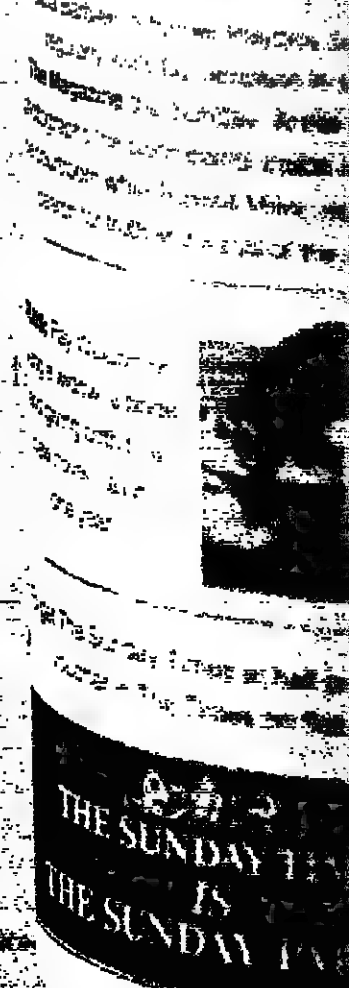
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Who'd be  
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ANNIE LEIBOVITZ  
AT CAMP OJ





# Who'd be Blair's chum?

Johnson. "Friends", as the parodist Hugh Kingsmill wrote, "are God's apology for relations." Thankfully, even politicians cannot change those.

ling is very important for a priest. It's a privilege to be alongside people who are vulnerable and to be able to help them by extending the listening ear of God. There's a

## MICHAEL POWEL



"Now that I am able to give the blessing, to say the prayer of thanksgiving at Communion and to do absolution has finally made liturgical sense of all the counselling and involvement in people's lives that I was doing."

Ms Carroll could scarcely be further from the stereotypical image of the fusty and pallid old hermit-priest, yet she still has to do battle with the preconceptions of people unfamiliar with the Church who imagine that she goes no

**"To separate sex  
from spirituality  
and not talk  
about it is  
simply bizarre"**

Ms Carroll joined the Church at a time when there were few women role models to follow. While she claims to be neither role model nor pioneer herself, she is clearly either mistaken or simply too modest. She is the modern face of the egalitarian Church and Streatham could hope for no better.

Does she want to get married, I ask. "Yes, but a partner for me," she says, "not for the Church."

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The Magazine this Sunday, Annie Leibovitz photographs the participants inside and outside the courtroom while Russell Miller reports on the search for truth at the trial of the century

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## Janet Daley



■ Labour now accepts the purpose of teaching, but what does it mean by "bad" teachers?

What are schools for? A year ago, the answer was still in some doubt. The teaching unions were locked in confrontation with the Government over testing and league tables — reforms which threatened to make schools publicly accountable as they had not been since the abolition of the 11-plus. Such exposure would, as the unions knew, bring about the collapse of the entire edifice of educational ideology. It would reinstate measurable achievement as the chief purpose of schooling.

Thus the question with which I began would be clearly answered: schools are for transmitting knowledge. To the extent that they succeed in this, they are good schools; to the extent that they fail, they are bad. That this should be a matter for debate, let alone mass industrial action, was a measure of how remote education had become from the expectations of most people. What the classroom industrial wars did, apart from disrupt the education of thousands of pupils, was to reveal the perverse absurdity of what a whole generation of teachers had been taught to believe.

At last we all agree that schools are for teaching

As I write, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers has voted to ballot its members on industrial action on an issue which it expects will win popular approval. It will recommend that members refuse to teach classes of more than 31 children for more than two days. Restricting class size is union code for protecting teaching jobs. But parents have been persuaded that the number of children in a classroom is crucial to pupils' performance. Many parents are too young to remember that in the baby-boom years just after the war, primary school classes were usually over 40. The academic progress made by state-school children in that period puts recent generations to shame.

In those days, working-class children, born of parents who had survived the desperate poverty of the 1930s, emerged from bombed-out slums to attend schools which would now be considered hopelessly over-crowded and "under-resourced". Taught by teachers who unashamedly propagated "bourgeois values" — a belief in learning and self-improvement — and having the incentive of the 11-plus, they went on to levels of achievement which have never been equalled. The numbers of students from working-class backgrounds entering university is now lower than when schooling was under the "tyranny" of huge classes and selection.

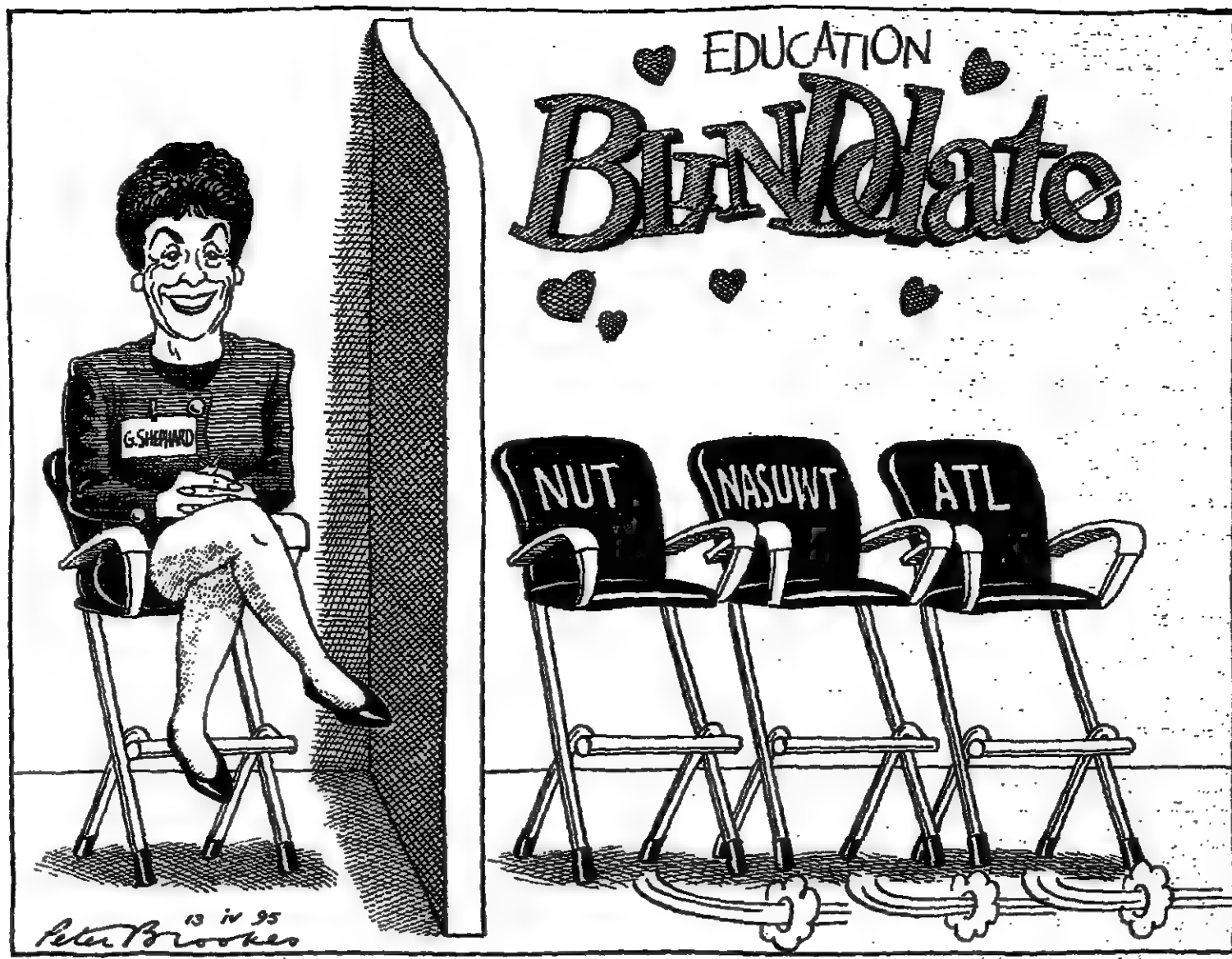
Large classes are an insurmountable problem if teachers insist on supervising individual children while they re-invent the wheel. A teacher addressing a whole class can teach 40 pupils as readily as 30 — as long as he is free to be "instructional" and the school ethos supports strict discipline. Many over-subscribed private primary schools must now contend with larger classes than their better-equipped state equivalents, which does not deter the queue of middle-class parents at their doors. Labour's public recantation on education has acknowledged that working-class children were sold down the river by progressive teaching. But can it also accept that the solution to this tragedy — the disinheriting of a generation — does not lie in the inevitable union demand for more resources?

It may be difficult to recall now, but in the dark days of 1994, Labour had not come out of the closet on schools. Belief in traditional aims and teaching methods was still a shameful fetish, indulged in the privacy of North London dinner parties among those who had discovered what was actually going on.

Schooling had become a form of personal development therapy rather than a means of handing on knowledge. Teachers had been persuaded that their function was to facilitate children in an amorphous, structureless "journey of discovery", rather than to pass on the accumulated enlightenment that was the birthright of earlier generations. They had abdicated their responsibility to act as authoritative adults able to provide uniformed children with the critical judgment they need to participate in their own culture.

Forget middle England: it is the inner cities that were in need of Labour's volte face. But what is really being offered? Apart from withdrawing its threat to dismantle all the Conservative reforms, there is little more than bloodcurdling rhetoric about sacking "bad" teachers and dismembering "failing" schools. If "bad" teachers are all those brainwashed by progressive ideology, where will Labour find the legions of "good" teachers to replace them?

Parents' views are to be the be-all and end-all of Labour education policy, but there is a whole swathe of parents — themselves educated in the 1960s and 70s — who will not support a school's right to impose discipline. Will Labour replace them too? Education, and the liberation it can bring, has been subverted from the inside. Before they can be of any use, politicians must be prepared to admit the whole truth.



## Pro Anna and Jonathan

It is up to *The Guardian* to prove its charges against Mr Aitken; but Mr Spring's case is more sinister

Except for Prince Mohammed bin Fahd, I've known most of the main actors in the Jonathan Aitken case, many of them for 30 years or so. As a result, I am lumbered with all sorts of personal prejudices which make it difficult to do justice to all, or indeed to any, of the people concerned.

My starting point is Anna Ford. Roughly speaking, my attitude towards her is the one that Edmund Burke thought that the people of France ought to adopt towards Marie Antoinette. "I thought ten thousand swords must have leapt from their scabbards to avenge even a look that threatened her with insult."

It will be remembered that Anna Ford threw a glass of white burgundy, perhaps a nicely chilled chablis from Berry Bros, over Jonathan Aitken at one of Lady Melchett's celebrated soirées in Chelsea. She did so as a protest against the way in which Jonathan had contrived to take over TV-am, which had been established by Peter Jay and a group of media stars, including Anna Ford herself and David Frost.

I've always been quite content to regard this as a conflict between Aitken as a sinister but minor merchant banker, and a group of brilliant and entertaining media stars. In that drama, they were the three little pigs and he was the big bad wolf. He huffed and he puffed and he blew their house down; perhaps it had always been built of straw. So far as I can remember the story, he himself had subsequently to be rescued by the cartoon character Roland Rat. Mr Rat, like Prince Mohammed — or indeed, a new character, a *Guardian* journalist called Pallister, who has wandered into the plot out of a Trollope novel — I have yet to meet.

So, in round one, I am pro-Anna and anti-Jonathan. But then I remember earlier connections. I knew his father, and liked him. By the time I met him he had become a rather old-fashioned type of country Member of Parliament. He had a faint — but quite misleading — whiff of bristling, which came from being a nephew of Lord Beaverbrook. In the Carlton Club of those days it used to be said that Lord Beaverbrook had a hairy heel, and I dare say that

one could see the demonic tufts sticking through his silk socks. I also know Jonathan's mother, whom everyone likes. Jonathan was also, when still quite a boy in the 1960s, one of those who felt that Biafra deserved her independence and that the British Government's support for the military regime in Nigeria was an act of cynical opportunism, motivated by the influence of the oil companies. We were all suspected of supporting the Ibos because they were Roman Catholics — so great was my ignorance at the time that I did not know whether they were Animist or Presbyterian when I first espoused their cause. I remember with affection those who were on what I still think to be the right side — who could not accept the deliberate genocide of a black tribe. Jonathan was one. Winston Churchill was another. Auberon Waugh was pro-Ibo, and actually called one of his children "Biafra".

I even knew Jonathan Aitken's house in Lord North Street long before he went to live there. I remember calling on Brendan Bracken in the 1950s, and being shown the Romney portrait of Burke, of which he was so proud. Bracken was a close friend of Beaverbrook as well as Churchill, and would have been pleased to think that his house was now occupied by Beaverbrook's great-nephew. Bracken was good at rows and greatly enjoyed them. He was also a loyal friend in time of trouble. No doubt his spirit stands in Jonathan's corner.

I also remember Jonathan in the 1970s as a host to the Conservative Philosophy Group, with Margaret Thatcher listening to Friedrich von Hayek like a schoolgirl, her face glowing with attention.

William Rees-Mogg

as much as they do me is a shameful satisfaction. For the period of this legal action, I must repeat to myself the mantra: "Be fair to *The Guardian*."

It is now up to *The Guardian* to prove its charges against Jonathan in front of a jury (this is a public and therefore a jury case, not one of those complex libels which can properly be heard by a judge on his own). If the paper pleads justification, the onus of proof will be upon it. *The Guardian* cannot successfully plead fair comment — the central allegations are matters of fact, not of opinion. No doubt Jonathan will receive a roasting in the cross-examination, but will handle himself well. He will not be deterred by the fear of this cross-examination.

It would be wrong to prejudge the case; the duel will be one to the death. Yet Jonathan Aitken has one general advantage. In his relations with Saudi Arabia, he was trying to sell things to them, not the other way round. In broad terms, a British Member of Parliament who is

trying to export goods, and services to another country may be presumed to be acting in the national interest.

There was little the Saudis wanted of us — they were not trying to sell to Britain, nor did they need to hire a British politician to get Britain to place contracts with them. No doubt in the period Britain bought some Saudi oil, but that would have been as part of the general world oil market.

It is plainly right that the Prime Minister should allow Jonathan Aitken to clear his name in the courts while remaining a minister. The suggestion that he should have stood down for the whole period of the libel action is itself a sleazy one — it goes against natural justice. These are serious accusations of misconduct in his public capacity; he denies them. Until a jury has heard the case, he is entitled to the presumption of innocence.

The other recent case, that of Richard Spring, raises different issues. The facts do not appear to be in dispute. The questions are whether the *News of the World* unjustly invaded his privacy and whether "three in a bed" is a hanging offence for a parliamentarian's private secretary. Most people would think that this story, which seems partly to have been obtained by concealed recording, was an unjustifiable intrusion on personal privacy. It certainly brings a privacy law closer. Most people recognise that what the tabloid press calls "sex romps" occur in the lives of otherwise useful and responsible people, perhaps particularly among politicians with their extrovert temperaments and irregular hours.

The Jonathan Aitken issue is: was he guilty? If he was, *The Guardian* has been fully justified in exposing him. If he was not, he will be equally entitled to heavy damages. The Richard Spring issue is: does his guilt matter? To that the answer seems to be that sufficient public opinion still thinks that it does to make it hard for the Government to brazen out his conduct. The Aitken case will now be settled in the courts, which is as it should be. The Spring case has destroyed a promising career, with no prospect of appeal. That is not as it should be.

## Scrap this costly vanity

Norman Lamont says Europe needs no parliament

If the Government seriously believes in a Europe of nation-states, we need a new agenda for the 1996 inter-governmental conference. We cannot go on accepting institutions and procedures that increase pressures for a federal Europe. We need proposals to change the nature of the European Union by giving the national Parliaments of Europe a new role.

Do we really need the European Parliament? Does this vast expensive, pretentious assembly, for which so few people vote, really serve any purpose? If we are to be a Europe of nation states, is there any place for a directly elected parliament?

Democracy requires a link between the act of voting and an observable result which is clear enough to convince the public their participation is worthwhile. Democracy also needs issues simple enough to be described in terms the public understand. Can anyone say that is true of the European Parliament?

At the last European elections, the turnout was only 36 per cent. Some MEPs were elected by only 15 or 16 per cent of the electorate, but went off to the European Parliament proclaiming their democratic mandate to build Europe.

The parliament does not come cheap. Last year this Hapsburg Assembly cost the public of Europe an astonishing sum something over £500 million — nearly £1 million for each elected member. Even taking out the unavoidable extra travel costs, the cost per member is several times that of the House of Commons.

The European Parliament is not a proper parliament. Democracy cannot function without political parties, and political parties do not exist across the nations of Europe. Instead of parties there is only a series of weak alliances held together by the thinnest of programmes.

The powers of the parliament are increasing all the time. Mercifully it cannot yet raise revenue or dictate tax rates, though it certainly dispenses largesse. Its powers were significantly increased by the Single European Act — a Trojan Horse that has imposed many unwanted bureaucratic regulations in the name of the single market. Then at Maastricht we were forced to make concessions to the European Parliament, rather than give way on other points that seemed more important at the time.

The new powers are essentially negative, but many national parliaments in history have built their power on the right to say no, or, in the case of the House of Commons, on the right to deny supply. Armed with these new powers, the European Parliament will certainly insist that the Council should not introduce legislation without prior agreement. It could, for instance, start rejecting any Council proposal put forward without its involvement.

The continued existence of a directly elected European Parliament makes sense only if it is expected to evolve over the years and eventually acquire more powers. The present half-way house has no logic. The Euro-enthusiasts know this and are content to wait. For the moment they are happy to exploit the recently acquired new powers, but they know that every four or five years, at each inter-governmental conference, they will be able to demand more powers for the parliament in the name of "more efficient decision-making". Each time, they will win more powers in the complicated bargaining.

For them, the development of the parliament is part of the process of institution-building in Europe. Many are quite unashamed about this. Mr Schabert, one of the possible successors to Chancellor Kohl, recently said: "My concept of European statehood cannot do without parliamentary legislation of law-making... Co-decision should be extended to all areas of policy, and the European Parliament should have the right to initiate legislation."

We shall be lectured at about the so-called "democratic deficit" in Europe. If accepted, this insidious phrase leads logically to the abandonment of the idea of a Europe of nation-states, in favour of a European superstate. There is one simple way of increasing democracy in Europe, and that is to ensure that no decision is taken in Brussels unless it has been debated and approved by national parliaments. British members of the European Parliament are in a permanent minority, and therefore they cannot protect Britain's national interests. For this reason, the parliament ought to be restricted to consultative work, and its members ought to be either nominated or elected from national parliaments. A directly elected parliament is an expensive nonsense, utterly inconsistent with the idea of a Europe of nation-states.

At the next inter-governmental conference, Britain should reject all proposals to give more power to the European Parliament, and should instead propose returning to an assembly drawn from national parliaments. Europe does not need an elected parliament, for it will inevitably push for more powers for itself, and for a centralised Europe. This is an extract from the MP for Kingston's speech to the Campaign for an Independent Britain.

## V for vintage

THE CHANCE to celebrate Victory in Europe in style comes up next month, when one of only two known remaining jeroaboams of Château Mouton Rothschild's celebrated 1945 vintage is auctioned in Geneva.

The jeroaboam is equivalent to six bottles, and carries the victory label of the day, designed by the



The label on the jar

artist Philippe Julian, with a large "V" and the words *Année De La Victoire*. Christie's has put an estimate of £14,000 on the bottle, which works out at around £80 per savoured mouthful.

Wine buffs cannot control themselves. "A really great wine. It will last well into the next century," says Serena Sutcliffe of Sotheby's.

Michael Broadbent of Christie's is hopping with excitement. "It's a Churchill of a wine. I give it 21 out of 20 and six stars out of five."

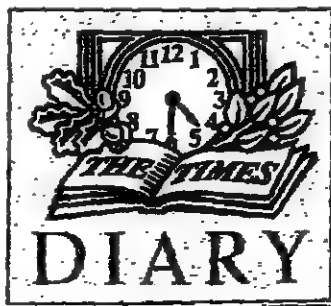
Only 24 jeroaboams were produced in victory year, which provided a tiny harvest after a frost in May, making for an extraordinarily concentrated wine. The bottle to be auctioned is the 18th out of the 24, and Christie's knows of just one other jeroaboam.

Among the few who have tasted the '45 is Lord Archer. "I had a glass about ten years ago when Peter Palumbo opened a bottle," he says. "I couldn't drink wine for two weeks afterwards. Everything else tasted awful compared to it, like the stuff you get at Conservative functions."

## Speak up

FRANCIS URQUHART, the appalling fictional Prime Minister in *House of Cards*, couldn't possibly have commented on the confessions of his creator, Michael Dobbs, in next month's *GQ* magazine. But Dobbs suggests he was frightened of his former boss in the Conservative Party, Margaret Thatcher.

"I do have one regret," he says. "I



wish that just once I had had the guts to say [to her]. This is nonsense. I've never heard so much... so much what's in my life." It appears Dobbs simply didn't have the courage to challenge the Iron Lady, whose company he didn't enjoy and whose sense of humour he never quite grasped. "She usually laughed about a second after she should have started laughing," he says.

## Crèche course

STOUT resistance to the idea of a crèche at the Palace of Westminster comes from the most formidable woman in politics: Beryl Goldsmith, OBE, Lord Tebbs's indomitable secretary of many years standing.

She pulls no punches on the matter. "Some of us hope the pressure for such facilities will be rejected," she writes in this week's issue

of *The House*, the parliamentary magazine. "If daddy or mummy cannot bear to be a million miles away from Charlie or Charlotte, they should pursue other professions. This is Westminster — not Woolworths."

## Swine indeed

THE STUARTS of Scotland are looking into muzzles for swine. The need is pressing at Traquair House, on the banks of the Tweed, Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited property, where Stuarts have lived for more than 500 years. Two pot-bellied pigs have started to nip the gardener, and there are fears that they might go for visitors

when the house opens to the public this weekend.

"We got them a couple of weeks ago. They're brother and sister, and they're called Jasper and Jasmine," said Catherine Maxwell Stuart of Traquair. "We've been feeding them on draft from our brewery, which might explain why they're lively. If you know of any pig muzzles, do tell me."

● *Fishy goings-on in the diocese of Peterborough today: smoked haddock, to be precise. The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Bill Westwood, is feeding ledgers to 130 visiting clergy this Maundy Thursday. "A lovely dish," he says. "You need butter and black pepper. And plenty of it."*

## Wearabouts

WHEN the Canadian High Commissioner, Royce Frith, visited the Cornish fishermen on Tuesday, it wasn't so much the sea of maple-leaf flags that caught the eye as the man himself. Or, rather, his choice of clothes: a dark blue chalk-stripe suit, floppy bow tie, suede shoes with crepe soles and a tweed hat befitting the owner of a country estate.

"A very unusual combination," remarked an image consultant from Color Me Beautiful. "It either shows extraordinary creativity or none at all."



Canada drill: Royce Frith

The truth, says Frith, is more prosaic. "I couldn't find a manual on what to wear to see Cornish fishermen, so I decided to throw in a bit of everything. The diplomat in me went for a pin-striped suit and bow tie; the tweed hat, which I wear for my country walks at the weekend, was for the farmers and fishermen. And then I wore rubber-soled shoes in case I had to get onto a fork lift truck or something."

P.H.S.





## WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

Russia needs IMF advice as much as IMF money

Three times since 1992, Russia has obtained loans from the International Monetary Fund to support macro-economic reforms and to stabilise the rouble. Each time, the Russian Government has failed to live up to its solemn promises of monetary discipline, reduced budgetary deficits and economic liberalisation. This week the IMF board approved a further \$6.8 billion standby loan to see Russia through the 1995 budget year. This is the IMF's largest commitment yet to Russia, and the second largest loan in the IMF's history. Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, claims to be personally convinced not only that Russia's reforms for 1995 are "bold and ambitious", but that this time, President Yeltsin has taken the austerity pledge in good earnest. Under the desk, his fingers must be crossed.

The Russian President has only the sketchiest grasp of economics, and M. Camdessus knows from hard experience that in Russia, there is no such thing as a copper-bottomed guarantee. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, insists that Russia's commitment to sound money is unbounded; but he said the same last year. Across Russia yesterday, workers were striking over wage arrears, a reminder that compliance will make the Government even more unpopular than it is today. Parliamentary elections are due in December. No wonder the IMF has insisted that this time, it will pay out only in monthly slices and only if Russia meets the agreed targets.

In terms of the Russian economy, even \$6.8 billion is small beer, sufficient to cover only about a third of its projected budget deficit (and about equal to the military bill for the Chechnya operation). Economists argue with reason that Russia could finance the entire budget itself, if it liberalised its oil and gas industries and taxed them at close to world levels. Gazprom, the gas monopoly once headed by Mr Chernomyrdin, is scandalously protected on both counts. Russia still pays vast subsidies — accounting for

half this year's planned spending — to state-owned industrial, mining and agricultural monopolies; and far too little of that money goes into overhauling them. Privatisation of Russia's collective farms is almost completely stalled and uneconomic mines stay in production without paying their miners.

But the need for such reforms is precisely what justifies the IMF's decision. The loan, and the monitoring that accompanies it, will give Russia's small band of genuine reformers much-needed leverage. Mr Yeltsin's eagerness to close the IMF deal has already yielded some results. Under a law passed in January, it is illegal for the government to finance the deficit by printing money. The same month the Central Bank, put under much firmer management following last October's rouble crisis, actually cut the money supply. Under a new decree, any overshooting of spending targets must be approved by President, Government and Parliament. That will lend off demands for additional state subsidies. The reformers will need all the help they can get this year, the powerful farm bosses, who routinely demand handouts to get the harvest in, have started pressing for more cash before planting is even well under way.

Provided Russian targets mean something this time, the worst could just be over. Russia's economy may at last have stopped declining, and the country could even move into modest growth by late summer. Falling inflation and rising tax revenues would make it politically easier for the Government to live up to its promises of further structural reforms. That would release up to \$2 billion more in World Bank finance, and coax back some of the \$24 billion officially estimated to be siphoned away in Western accounts by Russian investors and enterprises. Russia needs the IMF not despite but because of the conditions attached to the loan. That is the point Western leaders should drum into Mr Yeltsin when they celebrate the 50th anniversary of victory with him in Moscow next month.

## ANSWER THE QUESTION

Teachers are focusing on the wrong issue

For parents who thought that a truce had been achieved between the nation's teachers and the Government, the prospect of another summer of classroom disruption must be disappointing. Yesterday the traditionally moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers voted to ballot its members on industrial action over class sizes. There is every chance that the more radical unions will follow suit. Having forced a review of the national curriculum by industrial action, teachers are clearly tempted to repeat the strategy in the months ahead.

The ATL's vote was doubtless intended to embarrass Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, on the day she addressed the union. It is hard to imagine a more destructive gesture. Mrs Shephard has done more than any recent education minister to build bridges with the teaching profession; it could even be argued that she has gone a little too far in this respect. She has fought hard in Cabinet for education funding. Her speech to the NAS/UTW teaching union this year will be the first visit by an Education Secretary to a TUC-affiliated union's conference since 1986. By attacking Mrs Shephard, the teachers risk alienating the best advocates they have in the Government.

The issue they have chosen for their latest protest is, in any case, wrong-headed. Class size, it is true, is an issue which many parents cite in polls as an area of concern. But it should not be assumed that the correlation between smaller classes and higher quality education is automatic. A small class taught by an incompetent teacher will always be outperformed by a larger one taught by someone who is able to maintain discipline, convey knowledge

clearly and inspire rigour. In East Asian countries which consistently out-perform Britain in educational standards, classes can often be as large as 60. What is right for Korea is not necessarily right for Britain; but the comparison does show that small classes are not a prerequisite of first-rate education.

If standards are to improve, the educational debate must focus on more than resources. The national curriculum has established a benchmark to which schools must conform; league tables have given parents more information than ever before and encouraged head teachers to copy best practice; the introduction of grant-maintained status has enabled those schools that wish to develop their own character outside the town hall system to do so. The next phase of educational reform must be an unflinching review of teaching methods.

The new Teacher Training Agency has announced a comprehensive review of the in-service training. Christopher Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, has launched a welcome campaign to weed out "woolly, simplistic or otherwise corrupt" teaching methods. Many schools are still deeply influenced by the so-called "progressive" teaching philosophy of the 1960s which puts self-esteem above achievement and "child-centred learning" ahead of traditional didacticism. By singling out a small number of high-achieving schools — "beacons of excellence" — Mr Woodhead is encouraging heads to leave these outdated and discredited ideas behind. These initiatives are to be welcomed. But the scale of the task should not be underestimated. It is regrettable that the teaching unions will do all they can to prevent debate moving onto this terrain.

## SPAIN'S TRAWLERS

Canada has offered a compromise: Madrid must be moderate

The fish that the Canadians call the turbot, the Spanish call the flétan and the Cornish call the Greenland halibut has provoked a crisis in the European Union's diplomacy. Talks in Brussels to resolve the dispute over Canada's recent apprehension of a Spanish trawler ended inconclusively yesterday. As the negotiators break for Easter, the conflict will fester: the blame rests squarely with the EU, and with Spain in particular.

Canada has tendered a measured compromise, agreeing to a reduction of 6,300 tonnes in its own turbot quota. It has offered to accept an increase to the tune of 6,600 tonnes in the quota of the EU — and for EU, read Spain. Both parties would thus have a total allowable catch of 10,000 tonnes each. This formula was set for adoption a week ago, whereupon the EU proceeded to introduce a series of Madrid-inspired filibusters. These include demands that Canada return to Spain the bond paid for the release of the offending Spanish trawler, the *Estai*, and that Canada repeal the legislation under which she was detained. Naturally, these are demands to which Ottawa cannot agree.

The detention of Spanish trawlers earlier this week in South African waters highlights the extent of the global problem of over-fishing. Fisheries officials in Cape Town reported that the offending vessel was using a net that was 22 km long; the vessels arrested by the Irish authorities, Spanish-owned but flying flags of convenience, had

exceeded their quota and caught under-sized fish. These offences are now typical practice in our age of industrialised hunting and gathering: the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported recently that 70 per cent of fish stocks are now either fully exploited or depleted. The EU's irresponsible common fisheries policy has contributed greatly to this plunder, and was the principal reason why Norway voted against accession to the Union.

The Grand Banks dispute would not have arisen had the international law of fisheries had more to say on the question of conservation. A compromise over North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation quotas — which is inevitable, given Madrid's diplomatic limitations and the weakness of its case — should not cause us to forget a more compelling objective, that of a global convention which calls a halt to over-fishing and allows for the rebuilding of fish stocks.

A few mealy-mouthed articles in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and a non-binding FAO "Consensus on World Fisheries" are simply not good enough. Clear rules of prescription, prohibition and enforcement need rapidly to be laid down to govern the manner in which fishing is pursued in the high seas. By its "citizen's arrest" of the *Estai*, Canada has drawn our attention to the unconscionable state of international law. In defending its legitimate interests, Canada has acted for us all.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Lessons to be learnt from unpopularity of Tory party

From Mr Brian Whittingham

Sir, In my view John Major is naive to ascribe his party's extreme unpopularity to dissension among his Tory colleagues.

I voted for decades for a party which purported to preserve what was best in our British way of life and, of course, our independence. Whilst the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues play lip service to the principle of democracy, they share with the previous prime minister a marked intolerance of any view not shared by themselves.

They apparently fail to comprehend that the British electorate is profoundly unhappy with curtailed educational opportunities; higher effective taxation — especially for the less well off; ominous cutbacks in the care available for the sick and the mentally disadvantaged; widespread unemployment; job insecurity and homelessness; and inexorably growing loss of sovereignty vis-à-vis the European Union.

I suggest that many erstwhile Conservative supporters, who may be denied an opportunity to vote for the likes of William Cash, Teresa Gorman and Sir Teddy Taylor, will be faced with an unpalatable choice: metamorphosed socialism (Labour), pseudo-socialism (Liberal Democrats) or abstention.

I for one am alarmed when Mr. Major and Sir Edward Heath call for the unquestioning obedience from democratically elected MPs which used to characterise parliamentarians in totalitarian regimes.

Your obedient servant,  
B. WHITTINGHAM,  
Green Gables,  
Wicken Road, Clavering,  
Nr Saffron Walden, Essex.  
April 7.

From Mr Simon P. Toms

Sir, The whipless nine have caused untold damage to the electability of the Tories and must realise that we shall never be returned for a fifth term in office if unity does not come about. It is not only backbenchers who are at fault.

Cabinet Ministers should worry less about whether they will fill John Major's shoes when he is replaced and worry more about whether there will be a Conservative Party to lead.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON TOMS  
(Vice-Chairman, South East Cornwall Conservative Association),  
Wycherley,  
16 Meadow Close, Polruan, Cornwall.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, The true reason, I believe, for the present condition of the Conservative Party is the precise opposite to Mr Major's diagnosis — in that the degree of support which the party still retains with the electorate is due very largely to the smaller proportion of "rebels" whom he castigates for disloyalty but who, in fact, speak for a considerable majority of Conservative voters up and down the country.

Yours faithfully,  
JEROME GARDNER,  
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,  
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon.  
April 7.

From Mr E. M. Holt

Sir, The Scottish local election results have a message for Mr Major. Far from opposing the Labour Party's intention to grant limited home rule to the Scottish people, he should use his majority, while he still has one, to force immediate full independence for

Scotland and rid himself of a permanent and increasing body of Opposition MPs.

Yours sincerely,  
E. M. HOLT,  
Frieze Farm, Crowsley,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.  
April 7.

From Mr Richard McLellan

Sir, To fall from 50.1 per cent of the popular vote in Scotland during the 1995 general election to 11.3 per cent in 1995 shows a rejection of the Conservative Party more profound than can be explained by its current difficulties. In Scotland, the Conservatives are seen as an almost alien political organisation whose natural home is southern England.

The state of the party is terminal in Scotland, in my view, and I would be very surprised if it held three Scottish seats after the next general election. Any resurrection of right-of-centre politics here will have to come from an indigenous party without any formal links with English Conservatism. That will only happen when a Scottish Parliament is established in Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. McLELLAN,  
4 Stag Park, Lochgilphead, Argyll.  
April 8.

From Mr E. B. Shaxson

Sir, If Douglas Hurd is right in his assertion that the Tory party is less popular than John Major (report, April 8), does this signal the end of Conservatism?

Yours etc.  
BRUCE SHAXSON,  
8 Oakhurst, Crossways Road,  
Grayscott, Hindhead, Surrey.  
April 8.

### West's reaction to Turkey in Iraq

From Dr S. A. Mousalimas

Sir, Turkey has oppressed the indigenous non-Turkish peoples of Asia Minor through the course of this century. Armenians, Greeks, Aramaic Syrians and Kurds. Its human rights record is abysmal, even on Turks.

It continues — in defiance of UN resolutions — to occupy a large part of another country, Cyprus, which it brutally invaded. Today, Turkey is crossing another international border, Iraq's, and is again killing civilians; yet we read in your leading article, "Turkey and the West" (April 7), the suggestion that "its friends" should be "persistent in arguing the case for" a "face-saving solution".

Yours faithfully,  
S. A. MOUSALIMAS,  
Lesok, Water Lane,  
Greenham North,  
Newbury, Berkshire.  
April 7.

From Mr A. Papanioniou

Sir, An act of aggression, whether carried out by an ally or an adversary, should be condemned outright, and more so when human rights are violated and civilians are at the mercy of a foreign army. Double standards breed violence, further aggression and widespread resentment.

Yours faithfully,  
A. PAPANIONIOU,  
299a High Street,  
West Bromwich, West Midlands.  
April 7.

### Equal opportunities

From Mr Derek G. Potter

Sir, For me adequately to respond to Mr Ian C. Baillie's letter (April 11) on an advertisement encouraging disabled people to apply for a historic buildings officer's job, I am afraid I must be permitted a small toot on my trumpet.

In 1980, in my second year studying architecture, I suffered total paralysis of my right leg as a result of polio, since then I have had to rely on the use of a full-length caliper for support. For the past 15 years as an architect I seem to have been more involved with site supervision of building contractors than in the back rooms of the design team, and worked for two years on sites in Saudi Arabia and four years in Luxembourg, apart from many UK sites.

Mr Baillie should be aware that having mobility problems, does not rule out being able to run an efficient site — it can of course allow more time for a full inspection to be made as one negotiates difficult terrain.

The fact that no serious accident occurred on any of my sites was due in part, I believe, to my disability, as the chaps working harder on safety matters on my behalf than they would normally have done.

I hope very much that those placing the advertisement will not be discouraged from appointing the right person for the job just because of some physical disability.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK POTTER,  
29 MSB House,  
19 The Mall,  
Bromley, Kent.  
April 11.

### Cantona's penalty

From His Honour J. F. Evans, QC

Sir, A well-known footballer did something criminal, wholly unusual, and outside any behaviour which might have been expected under any oral provocation.

A courageous bench of magistrates treated the case as very unusual and imposed a stern but fair and moderate sentence.

The Crown Court changed that, ordering the offender to do "community service" (report, April 7). He must do, by way of punishment for his offence, what many sportsmen have done voluntarily — teach their skills to the young. Thus are the magistrates implicitly criticised and humiliated for doing what to so many must have seemed right and fair.

How glad I am that, being retired from the circuit bench, I can now write to you to express my sympathy for the magistrates. How right I think they were!

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FIELD EVANS,  
1 Fountain Court,  
Birmingham 4.  
April 8.

### Bats in the belfry

From Mr Richard Morgan

Sir, I read with great interest your report, "Anglicans have more bats in their belfry" (later editions, April 12). In fact it is unusual for bats to roost in belfries, and here in Thaxted parish church they tend to roost above the organ in the north transept.

The notion that "the heavy use of incense was responsible for deterring bats" is false. We have had a "heavy use of incense" here every Sunday since Easter 1911 and we still have bats.

Yours etc.  
RICHARD MORGAN,  
The Carpenters Arms,  
24 Newbiggin Street,  
Thaxted, Essex.  
April 12.

### Law and the State

From Dr D. G. Peacock

Sir, I was both interested and disturbed to see the letter (April 7) from the Coalition on Child Protection and Tourism. In seeking a law to allow "UK citizens to be tried here for sexual offences against children overseas" they are surely allowing their distaste for an activity, a distaste which I happen to share, to blind them to the larger implications.

The Government's response seems to be that legislation would not result in successful prosecutions. Would that it had simply said that private conduct within the law overseas was none of its business.

Your correspondents put what they seek with commendable clarity. They wish the Government to "take responsibility for the conduct of its own nationals" when abroad. It comes uncomfortably close to a principle that the State owns the citizen and may therefore control his actions wherever they take place.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD G. PEACOCK,  
University of London,  
The School of Pharmacy,  
29-39 Brunswick Square, WCI.  
April 11.

### Labour and Europe

From Ms Joyce Quin, MP for Gateshead East (Labour)

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's article, "Britain failing to ask the right questions in Europe" (Business, April 6), claims that British politicians ignore pragmatic considerations in their attitude to EMU and fail to look at issues such as unemployment or the extent to which the convergence criteria are deflationary.

This is nonsense as far as Labour is concerned. We highlight these aspects frequently, as could be seen in Tony Blair's remarks at Chatham House this week (report, April 6).

Furthermore in Labour's comprehensive statement on Europe, passed at the 1993 party conference, we read that "convergence must be based on real economic performance — on improving levels of growth and employment and not just on monetary objectives alone".

Labour has also stressed the need to fulfil article 2 of the Maastricht treaty which aims at sustainable growth and a high level of employment and has called for the criteria to be interpreted flexibly in order to avoid deflationary dangers.

Yours faithfully,  
JOYCE QUIN,  
(Opposition Spokesperson on European Affairs),  
House of Commons.  
April 7.

### Capital punishment

From Mr N. W. Ward

Sir, Is it not ironic that at a time when capital punishment is very much in the news a man has been released from a murder sentence (report, April 7) not only because of his innocence but because no murder had in fact occurred?

This remarkable man spent three years working to prove his innocence. In earlier times he would not have had the opportunity unless he could do it in three weeks.

Yours,  
N. W. WARD,  
13 Courtlands Crescent,  
Banstead, Surrey.  
April 7.

### Services 'shake-up'

From Brigadier J. P. Maxwell (ret'd)

Sir, Few would question the need to review Service organisation and support in the light of recent political and military changes. However, there must be alarm at the apparently endless tinkering with our Armed Forces, which puts at risk the whole fabric of the Services and their ability effectively to mount a sizeable operation, let alone mobilise for war.

Our forces are held in high esteem in this country and envied by other nations, because of the professional standards, discipline and binding pride of their members, and the high quality of their leaders. This very special condition must not be jeopardised by the proposals of the Best committee to streamline ranks and structure (report, April 6).

"Delaying" of management levels in business — largely a cost-cutting

device under the guise of so-called "empowerment" — has led to overstretch and imbalance.

A career in the Army, followed by ten years training directors and managers in business and industry, revealed to me that civilian management has little to teach the military about running organisations and leading people.

Military rank structures, with their proven span of command and effectiveness, are widely recognised as underpinning the high standards consistently achieved in peace, low-intensity operations and war.

We should beware of short-term expedients which prejudice our capacity to respond to the unforeseen of the future — and leave well alone.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MAXWELL,  
Brook Lodge,  
Hambleton, Hampshire.  
April 7.

### Police trauma

From Mr Allan Gore

Sir, I do not know the full facts of those cases or the reasoning of the judge in dismissing the cases of the Hillsborough police officers (report, April 11).

With respect however to your editorial ("Trauma in uniform", April 11), I know of no legal principle that holds that exercising a right of choice (in this case as to the career to follow) amounts to consent to injury inflicted by the negligence of others. If you, or for that matter, the present Chief Constable, were correct, the police officer or the fire-fighter or the medical attendant would be disentitled from recovering damages even for physical injury suffered in the course of service,

which thankfully is not presently the case.

What this decision highlights is that it is the treatment of psychological injury that is illogical, inconsistent and sorely in need of reform, which view is now shared by the Law Commission in the recommendations in its recent consultation paper (report, March 29).

In the meantime, hopefully we will not put off those committed to working in the emergency services, very often for poor pay by comparison to what they are expected to endure in serving the public, by disinterring them to claim damages for negligently inflicted injury of whatever character.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN GORE,  
12 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.  
April 11.

### Single currency

From Mr Hannes Kleinke

Sir, With regard to the European controversy over the design of the proposed single currency (report, April 10), I think it is worth noting that there is a precedent for coins with a "federal" side and a "local" side.

After a common currency was introduced in the newly unified German Empire in 1875, all coins above the denomination of 1 Mark (ie, silver coins worth 2, 3 and 5 Marks, and gold coins worth 5, 10 and 20 Marks) bore the imperial eagle on one side, but the heads of the relevant territorial princes alternating on the other.

Yours faithfully,  
H. KLEINKE,  
Highfield Court, Egham, Surrey.  
April 7.

### Hay fever

From Mrs Fabienne Smith

Sir, Dr Sumatford points out (Medical Briefing, April 10) that hay fever was first described as a medical condition in 1819, "when it was considered a rarity". Sydney Smith wrote with his usual verve to Dr Holland in June 1835: "I am suffering from my old complaint, the hay-fever. My fear is, perishing by delirium; I melt away in nasal and lachrymal profusion. My remedies are warm pediluvium, cathartics, topical application of watery solution of opium to eyes, ears, and the interior of the nostrils. The membrane is so irritable that light, dust, contradiction, an absurd remark, the sight of a Disenter — anything, sets me sneezing."

Yours sincerely,  
FABIANNE SMITH,  
55 Manor Place,  
Edinburgh 3.  
April 10.

### Modern manners

From Ms Gistaine Hubbard

Sir, At a renowned hotel in central London last week the friend I was with attempted to send two glasses of champagne to a couple of gentlemen seated nearby.

The head waiter in The American Bar informed her that while he would be perfectly happy to deliver drinks to a woman ordered by a male guest, he was not prepared to do the same service for a woman.

I fail to see the logic.

Yours etc.  
G. HUBBARD,  
Moulden Wood Cottage,  
Chillies Lane,  
Crowborough, East Sussex.  
April 7.

### Poor look-out

From Miss Eleanor Hyde

Sir, To the average, only mildly feminist young woman, one thing jars in Malcolm Bradbury's comments in his interview with Valerie Grove (April 7): must "the rise of women" be categorised with "the ozone layer, pollution, AIDS, ... the demise of the nuclear family" and "the consequences of drugs" as a symptom of a world whose future he sees as gloomy?

Yours faithfully,  
ELEANOR HYDE,  
70 Blyth Road,  
Workshop, Nottinghamshire.  
April 7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

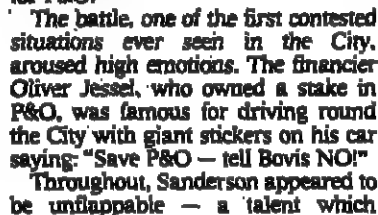






**FRANK SANDERSON**

Joseph backed Sanderson's rise to



He appreciated good music, was a regular visitor to the Mozart festival in Salzburg and was a patron of the Sidcup Symphony Orchestra.

Frank Sanderson is survived by his wife Sheila and three children.

His two successive wives, Pamela and Audrey, predeceased him and he is survived by two sons and a daughter from the first marriage.

He had also played for a time to the beat of a different drum. While still an undergraduate, his skill with the saxophone, both tenor and baritone, drew the attention of

On V Day in Britain there was

in the Pacific war. I am  
Australia wants to be  
the war is past. Our  
are on the offensive.  
sailors in Britain will

\_\_\_\_\_

saved. That phase of the war is past. Our fighting forces, too, are on the offensive. Australian airmen and sailors in Britain will

Washington, by 20th Air Force Command. Returning pilots said they had left their targets burning fiercely.



Jane MacQuitty introduces a two-page report on wine, wineries and wine people — and regions to watch out for in the future

If you want to drink good classic and non-classic wines at keen prices from all over the world, my advice is move to Britain. London is still the wine capital of the world and even the sophisticated drinkers from acknowledged gourmet capitals like Paris and New York have nowhere near the selection that we do.

This is the country where it is still possible to drink decent French £1.99 bottles, such as Sainsbury's red *Vin de Pays de Gascogne* and *L'Hérault Pair*, infinitely better than the French sub-£1.60 (£2 plastic bottle counterparts, alongside new-wave £3.49 wine wonders from Brazil (Tesco stocked two last year), and Moldovan £3.25 specials at Sainsbury, on up to the finest and rarest of clarets and burgundies at prices to match.

All this has come about because traditionally England has not produced any great quantities of wine of her own and generations of UK wine drinkers and buyers have had to go abroad for their needs.

This trend has been helped greatly since the 1970s by the technology-first era that lasted well into the 1980s. Traditionalists loathed (and still do) this movement's squeaky clean methods and high-tech wine weaponry, such as cool night-harvesting in hot wine regions, mechanical harvesting, cold settling of juice prior to fermentation, inoculating flavour-dominant yeast strains plus cold fermentation and skin contact between grapes and juice.

Flying winemakers have been prime forces in this age. Indeed the sterile, cool, anaerobic winemaking conditions were and still are essential to producing fine wines in hot, "new-world" wine countries such as Australia, California and South Africa.

Since then the 1990s have seen a return to the vineyard. Once slaves to technology alone, the more broad-minded of the younger generation of winemakers have gone back to the land and vine for their inspiration. Key words in their language include clonal selection, vineyard spacing, canopy management, grafting, root stock and vine nurseries. The most advanced of these winemakers and viticulturists have built with such success on their foundation through technology alone that they are now precisely matching uncharted new-world wine territory with grape variety.

Top new-world wine marriages since the 1970s have included New Zealand's stony-soil South Island Marlborough region with the Sauvignon grape and the Médoc's red grapes matched to the revered

## Why Britain is the best bet for wine drinkers



Wine maturing in the cellars of the family company, Tollot Père et Fils, at Chorey, outside Beaune

cigar-shaped red soil strip of Coonawarra in South Australia. Widely acclaimed now, these new-world classics are likely to be joined by other marriages of specific grape varieties with new-world soil by the year 2000.

Terrain, which until now was a distinct French notion that soil, aspect, climate and grape variety are the key elements to fine wine production — and not the vinification and cellar techniques — could become an important new-world wine issue. The answer may be the best of both schools.

So which are the wine-producing countries to watch for if you want to continue to drink well and cheaply in the 1990s?

Regions such as Bordeaux, Burgundy, Beaujolais and Champagne are poorly performing, overpriced and backward-looking. But France

is still in vogue in new-wave wine areas such as Languedoc Roussillon, that vast southern French vineyard that follows the Mediterranean coast. Adjacent Gascony has fallen from grace of late, particularly through the humdrum white *Vins de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne*, and I would not single out the Loire either as a great 1990s wine source: better, estate-bottled *Muscadet* in particular looks expensive at £5 plus.

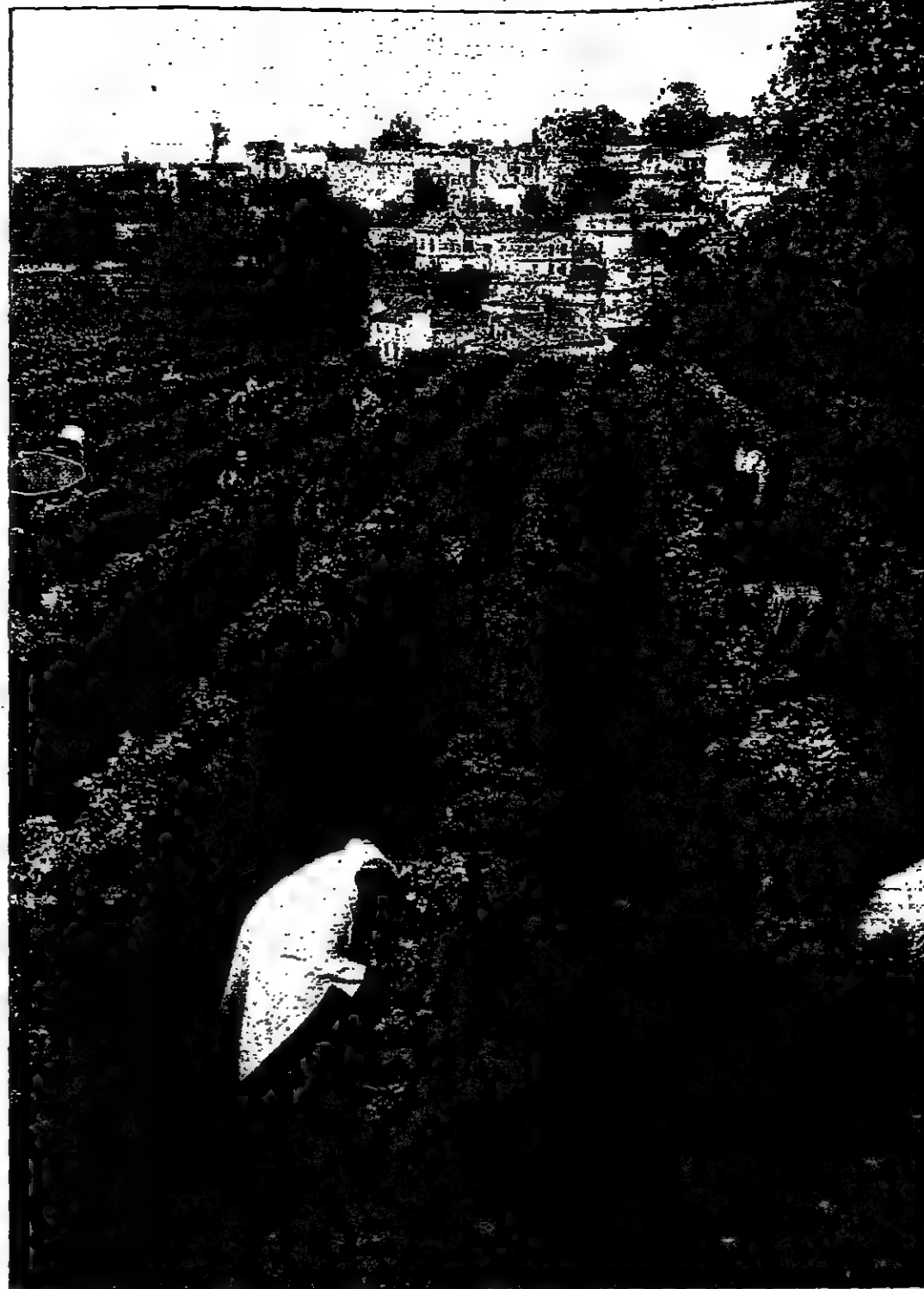
Germany, despite the much heralded Riesling revival and its better estate-bottled wines, does not seem a natural 1990s wine source. But this is principally, I suspect, because new-wave wine techniques have yet to make an impact there. Flying winemakers' offerings, such as the sub-£4

Sainsbury's Riesling, prove that there is an alternative to Liebfraumilch and the like.

Italy still has heaps of untapped wine potential, as do Spain and Portugal. Flying winemakers have made some stunning wines here, so look out for Geoff Merrill's splendid Italian range and Hugh Ryan's fruit-laden Santara selection plus Peter Bright's elegant Portuguese blends for Sainsbury's.

Eastern Europe continues to be in the frame. Bulgaria's indifferent party bottles have bowed out, but Hungary and Moldova's juicy varietals show the way and the former's once-great Tokay with new investment and plant has already produced some impressive 1990s vintages.

Closer to home, England has



Harvesting grapes for the famous French wine St Emilion, in the vineyards of Château Anseau

recently made some good clean whites and reds, and more can be expected here by the end of the decade.

The new-world wine countries continue apace. The Argies and the Argies, and now that more Californian wineries understand how important

1993, South African wines have become acceptable again. Look out for good cheap Cape whites in particular.

South American wines have improved by leaps and bounds, and now that more Californian wineries understand how important

Cost wines are in Britain, they will also provide some exciting reds and whites. Best of all, the focus on terroir will bring a greater awareness of unsung, often indigenous varieties. So expect Pinotage from the Cape, Torrontés from South America, País from Portugal and more. The best is yet to come.

## Make the falling £ go further

Spain, Portugal and Italy have some bargain-priced wines to offer

After a decade in which market share has steadily filtered toward "upstart" wine producers in far-flung climes on distant continents, Old World countries producing wines considered classics are further handicapped this year by currency movements.

One leading traditional wine merchant issuing its 1995-96 list last week accompanied it with an announcement that the prices of all French wines in the list were already out of date.

Adam Brett-Smith, Messrs Corney & Barrow's managing director, said that he considered it more honest to apply the 20p surcharge per bottle in this fashion, to make it clear to customers that it had been forced upon him.

With the franc down to 7.85 to the pound, French *vins de pays* which were last year selling well from supermarket shelves at £2.99 a bottle or less were suddenly catapulted over the psychologically important £3-a-bottle barrier. Two thirds of the wines sold from supermarkets, which now command three-fifths of the wine retail market in Britain, are priced at under £3, but the typical price for French *vins de pays* is now suddenly £3.29. Unlike Corney & Barrow and other traditional merchants, the supermarkets can and do revise prices on a daily basis, so it, then, still worth paying the extra for French and German wines?

The answer is still yes, if the wines are the best available at their prevailing price, because centuries of tradition and expertise are not easily overtaken either by *parvenu* imitations or by the whimsies of international currency exchange.

Many of the best wines available today still come from France and Germany, and it is worth remembering that Spain, Portugal and Italy, where currencies have depreciated in line with or even faster than sterling, have some undervalued wines to offer at prices that are still wholly advantageous.

The French wines which I consider likely to prove worth their augmented price include *vins de pays* from the Ardèche, the Pays d'Oc, or Vaucluse, and reputable versions of *vins de pays* from any of the many Midi appellations bearing the

name of any grape varietal (such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Chardonnay or Viognier) that you favour.

Higher in the French hierarchy, appellations I particularly favour and recommend include, for palatable whites, Côtes de Gascogne, Côtes de Thongue, Macon-Villages, Pinot Blanc d'Alsace (my house white of choice), Sauvignon de Touraine, and St-Véran.

For light reds I still buy and enjoy the 1993 vintage of Beaujolais-Villages or Bergerac, and of Bordeaux satellites such as Côtes de Blaye, and Côtes de Castillon. For guttural reds you will find solid value in 1993 Corbières, Côtes de Ventoux, Côtes du Roussillon, St-Chinian, Madiran, Minervois, Côtes du Rhône, Gigondas, and Vacqueyras.

Germany is a special case. Its reputation has been depreciated in the eyes of serious wine drinkers by the overcropping of grapes to market vast quantities of over-sweetened

lolly water, and concentrating too much attention on generally fruitless efforts to imitate the drier wine styles of other countries. The Germans have let their classic wines drift almost outside the realms of public acquaintance.

If I want to amaze wine novices these days, I serve them a lightly chilled classic German Riesling from one of the few remaining fastidious producers. Expensive (little of real class is to be found under £7.50), but worth it for the steely sharpness, the elegance, the perfect balance, and the subtle delight that one simply does not find elsewhere.

Italy, by contrast, is a happy hunting ground. Traps abound, no doubt, because Italians seem to make rules solely for the delight of breaking them, but with the aid of a sound retailer's buying team, the winelover should find ample satisfaction from Vernaccia di San Gimignano (my favourite Italian white), Dolcetto (a sturdy, highly enjoyable red), 1990 Chianti, and lesser known names such as Montepulciano, d'Abruzzo, Morellino di Scansano, or Salice Salentino. For a light, frivolous summer sparkler,

choose Moscato d'Aleppo. It generally pays to avoid wines the Italians themselves rate highly, as those are likely to be astonishingly overpriced.

From Spain the great values, to my mind, are the chunky red wines of Jumilla and Navarra. The only Spanish whites I much consider are

the competitively priced *caves* from Penedès, a cheap substitute for champagne; but higher in the red hierarchy there are exceptionally fine buys to be had among the 1988, 1989 and 1990 vintages of the Rioja and Ribera del Duero. Portugal had a miserable time in 1993, so its wines are not showing to much advantage, but try old favourites Alentejo, Dão and Bairrada.

ROBIN YOUNG

Our wines have earned a Royal Seal of Approval.

We hope they'll learn yours.

It made us extremely proud when King Simeon II of the Bulgarians bestowed his Royal Seal of Approval on our Domaine Boyar range of wines.

He was endorsing our commitment to produce wines of genuine nobility, outstanding in their consistent standards of excellence.

But we realise we still have to earn the approbation of another equally discerning palate.

Yours.

So, as you can imagine, we'll be just as nervous when you take your first sip as we were when these regal wines first made their impression on His Majesty.

Bulgarian wines from  
**DOMAINE BOYAR**  
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How Cabernets from Chile got their word-of-mouth reputation.

This Cabernet Sauvignon comes from Chile's finest wine-growing region in the Maipo Valley. Aged in oak, the wine is deliciously soft and blackcurrant.

It is just one of the wines that explain why Sainsbury's became Supermarket Wine Merchant of the Year. £3.79. Available in most stores.





There's A  
Party In  
Every Bottle!



WINES FROM





The reputation  
of a winery is  
all-important in  
new world wine,  
says Robin Young

**W**ine drinkers over the past two decades have been happy to put into operation George Canning's famous maxim about calling on the new world to redress the balance of the old.

Wines from the Americas and the Antipodes have commanded increasing attention and publicity ever since a famous blind tasting 20 years ago in which a selection of California red wines, led by Stag's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon, were judged to have trumped a phalanx of Bordeaux's top clarets.

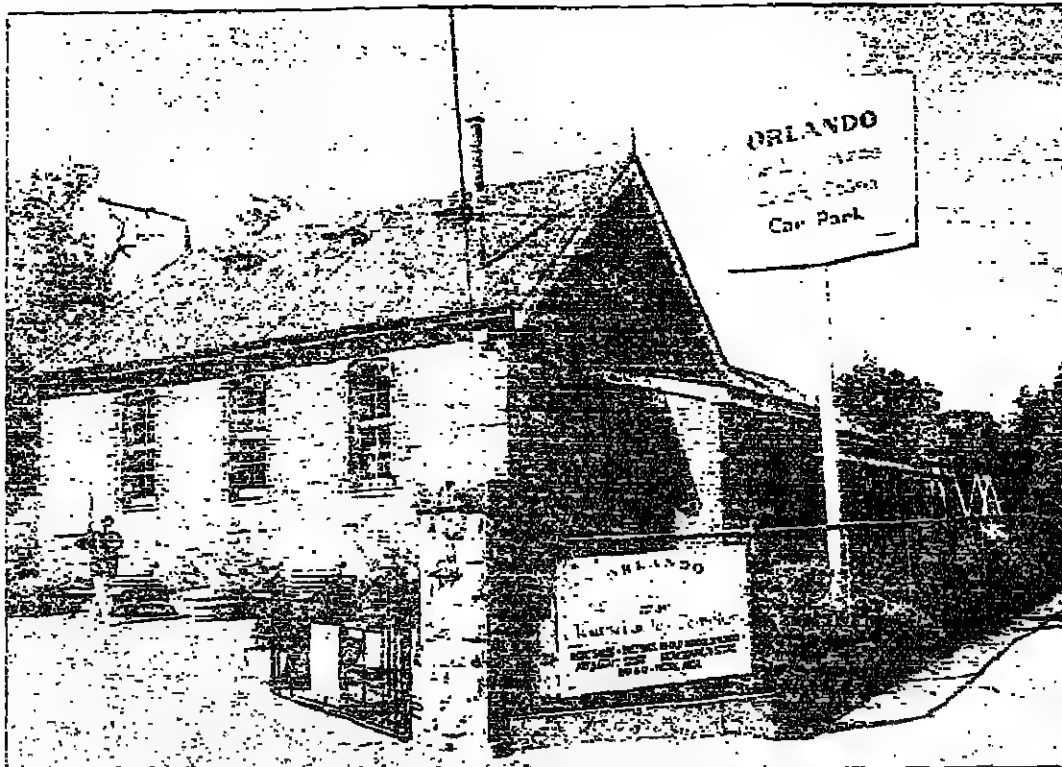
Yet the new world, too, is changing. The best bargains, at least among the least expensive wines, no longer come from the new world in any historical or geographical sense, so much as from a largely forgotten area of the old world suddenly rediscovered and rejuvenated.

It is the countries of eastern Europe which are best placed to provide the lowest priced wines, even if in most of them the winemaking technology and hygiene lags so far behind that standards can never be taken on trust. The countries whose products are now the keenest rivals for what was until recently Bulgaria's undisputed crown are Moldova and Slovakia, whose rapid improvements deserve support.

While there certainly are among old world producers, as among old horses for courses, different rules apply in sorting out new world sheep from goats.

Particular countries, and geographic regions within them, have proved a recent and peculiar penchant for success with particular wine varieties. The obvious instances include New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc, Chile's Cabernet Sauvignon, and Washington State Pinot Noirs. Longer established specialties included Australia's sticky Muscats and California's possibly native Zinfandels from valleys such as Napa and Sonoma.

Yet throughout the new world it is not so much the name of the wine region or appellation that is the most vital piece of information. What one really needs to have the measure of is the reputation of the particular winery. When you have identified an outperforming wine company, it is more than likely that you will be pleased with all of its products, whereas those that do



Up the creek: Britain's popular Australian Jacob's Creek can be tasted here in the Barossa Valley

## Great taste from new vineyards

poorly with some wines are all too likely to fail to satisfy with any.

Australia has built up an enviable domination of the British market for wines priced between £3 and £4.50, and the identities of many of the country's most dependable producers have as a result become household names.

Among those still worth following are Berry Estates, Brown Brothers, Cape Mentelle, Hardy's, Lindemans, Mitchelton, Orland, Rosemount, and Rothbury Estate. You are also always likely to get value for money from such old-established companies as Penfolds, Seppelt and Tyrrells.

New Zealand equivalents, though generally pricier, have top-flight Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, champagne-method fizz and intense, ripe reds from a successful 1994 vintage to offer. Names to hunt include Montana, by far the country's largest producer, Cloudy

Bay, whose Sauvignon Blanc is available on limited allocation only, is its most cultish. Morron Estate is good across the board, and Martinborough Vineyard is New Zealand's most adventurous.

**I**n California the names to follow include Robert Mondavi, Beringer, Bonny Doon, Kendall-Jackson, and Monterey, but it is worth bearing in mind, too, that California wine does not always have to be Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Chardonnay or Sauvignon.

Some of the best surprises are to be found among California's more exotic or under-appreciated varieties, such as Chenin Blanc, Alicante, Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Petite Sirah. My favourite producer in the United States' other most important wine-producing area, the Pacific north-west, is Château Ste-Michelle.

In South America, Argentina seems set to overhaul Chile as the outperforming producer of the red wines for which the continent seems best suited. Concha y Toro, Los Vascos, Errazuriz and Undurraga still produce good and reasonably priced Chilean wines, but many companies seem to have diluted their product to take advantage of over-enthusiastic press coverage in other quarters.

The leading Argentine producers, who may be about to teach them a lesson for such overreaching greed, include Bodega Weinert, Echagüe, and Trapiche, the quality end of the country's biggest wine producer, Peñaflor.

South Africa is re-emerging as a force in the new world, but the country's wine establishment is some way from shaking off the effects of a long and harmful isolation. Look for the wines of Hamilton Russell Vineyards for proof of what can be done in the way of world-class quality from that quarter, and note that Claridge is a newer winery producing wines which have the stunning vibrancy one hopes for from the best new-world winemakers.

Finally, since I have made the point that new-world wines can come from some rather old-world places, let a very honourable commendation go to the Colan Heights Winery, Israel's leading quality-wine producer.

California technique is there married to kosher regulations to produce some truly excellent results, especially for its top-of-the-range Yarden labels.

## Small vineyards can now call in flying winemakers

**J**etting round the world, making wine in, conceivably, as many as six different countries each year, sounds a glamorous occupation. The reality for flying winemakers is hard physical work in strange, ill-equipped locations with little sleep and a workforce that does not speak their language.

Yet these jet-setting flying wine doctors relish the unique world-wide vintage experience their job brings them and the opportunity to see their name on a myriad of UK high-street wine labels.

The 1995-96 flying winemakers' year will probably begin in August in somewhere like California, harvesting perhaps early while sparkling wine varieties, before moving east to Europe for a lengthy vintage season that could end in Germany with late-harvested November grapes. With the northern hemisphere well wrapped up by early December, flying winemakers have earned their Christmas break before the process starts all over again in January with the first of the southern hemisphere's grapes — for example, white varieties in South Africa.

The flying winemaker phenomenon would not have got off the ground were it not for the convenient difference between the northern hemisphere's usual harvest month of October and the southern hemisphere's equivalent, March.

Timing is all in a flying winemaker's schedule and his input can only ever stretch over a few weeks before it's departure time again. In practice, this means flying in several weeks before harvest, dictating exactly when, how, and in what order the grapes are to be picked, concurrent with a thorough clean of the winery, or corner of the winery, and then supervision of vinification, maturation and bottling. Frequently, the last two processes demand a second visit.

I first met a flying winemaker in California in 1985, when an Australian was squeezing in an American autumn vintage before winging back home to tackle his own Antipodean grapes in February. However, it was not until two years later that Tony

## Around the world in four seasons



Hard work: Jacques Lurton of France

Laithwaite of Bordeaux Direct sent a small team of Australian winemakers to two southern French co-operatives specifically to vinify a range of "flying winemaker" varietal wines for The Sunday Times Wine Club that the concept was officially born. These startlingly clean 1987s were not particularly impressive but the following year's more characterful 1988s were.

**M**r Laithwaite's imported southern French crew swiftly discovered that long hours and hygiene, and lots of both, was their best foreign winery weapon. Other flying winemaker obsessions include high-tech winemaking methods such as cold fermentation; the use of modern, inoculated yeast strains plus enzymes; oak chips, not barrels, to finish off with, and mobile

bottling lines that can be shifted from one winery to another. Flying winemakers' business works best with poorly equipped areas that produce large quantities of cheap, probably quite ordinary, grapes. South west France has plenty of these as does Iberia, Italy, eastern Europe, South America and South Africa.

Australian, or Australia-trained winemakers, dominate the flying winemaker field and many were trained in that Adelaide hills oenological-finishing-school-cum-winery, Petaluma.

The two most famous and well-travelled flying winemakers are England's Hugh Ryan and Jacques Lurton from France. Both went to Bordeaux University but finished their studies in Australia. Hugh Ryan at Petaluma claims that his time spent at Petaluma was the most formative of his long training, and where he learnt that "what you taste in the grape, you must keep in the juice and then in the wine".

Ryan now makes almost one million cases of wine each year in places such as France, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Chile and California. Lurton has made wine in Italy, France, Spain, Argentina, Australia and South Africa and probably produces slightly fewer cases than Ryan annually.

Neither, however, would consider catching a plane if they had not already pre-priced and pre-sold the wine they were about to make. This explains why Ryan, Lurton and other flying winemakers' bottles go on sale here at precisely those vital UK price points of £2.99, £3.99 and £4.99.

Yet there are now current drawbacks to their trade: a slight tendency to produce neutral wines that could come from anywhere and a reluctance to use indigenous, local grape varieties instead of the current commercially successful six chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc, merlot, semillon and syrah.

When these problems are overcome, the sky's the limit.

JANE MACQUITT

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POCKET THE DIFFERENCE



News of superb vintages from the Moselle, above; Rhine or Franconia would have raised no eyebrows in days gone by

## Seek the expert's advice

A generation of British people  
have no idea of the magnificence  
of Germany's white wines

**I**t may come as a surprise to discover that in recent years most of the best wine in Europe has been made in Germany. Wine magazine compiles regular vintage charts for all the important wine regions of Europe and the new world. Between 1988 and 1993 German wines, divided into ten categories, averaged more than eight out of ten. Burgundy scored 7.5, Bordeaux and the Loire 6.0 and 6.5, and Sauternes 5.

There has indeed been a series of remarkable vintages in Germany. Excellent Auslesen and Beerenauslesen from 1983 and 1985 still need keeping, and then along came 1988 which some thought might become the vintage of the century. Until, that is, the 1988s were eclipsed by the 1989s which in turn could not compare to the 1990s: Wine awards the 1990s seven tens and three nines.

News of great wine from the Moselle, the Rhine or Franconia would have raised no eyebrows in earlier generations. In 1925, Berry Bros & Rudd offered an Ockfener Gensberger from the legendary 1921 vintage at 50p a bottle, compared to 35p for a 1920 Château Lafite. Another 1921 Moselle fetched £1.50 against 57p for an 1899 Château Latour.

But for three or four decades now we have been flooded with the dreaded Liebfraumilch. Germany has certainly

succeeded in establishing a market in mass-produced, low-priced wines, and Liebfraumilch remains the UK's best-selling wine year in year out. This means that a generation of English people have no idea how magnificent the white wines from Germany can be.

The trade, from high street multiple retailer to specialist independent merchant, is trying to do something about this. Waitrose Direct, for instance, through Findlater Mackie Todd, is continuing an initiative launched last year with its mixed case of fine German Riesling at £72. You also get A Short Guide to German Wines, a handy booklet produced by the German Wine Information Service.

Riesling is certainly an extraordinary grape, capable of amazing diversity. There will be a Riesling wine to suit almost any adjective you care to use — dry, sweet, crisp, fruity, and so on. It dominates the steep, slate hillsides of the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, the most beautiful wine-growing valleys of the world whose white wines, according to Stuart Pigott in *Life Beyond Liebfraumilch*, are among the greatest in Europe. No less an author-

ity than the *Oxford Companion to Wine* acknowledges the claim that it may be the finest white grape variety of all. Less well known in this country is Silvaner, prominent in Franconia where the Frankenwein classically comes in flask bottles, known as Bocksbeutel. This is delightful stuff, but you may have to take a holiday in Würzburg or Bamberg to get it as the locals seem to drink it all.

**A**s the temperature also moves towards the eighties (hopefully) there are sound reasons for exploring German wines, and not only because of the wonderful recent vintages and as a welcome change from the ubiquitous Chardonnay. They go well with picnic food, and are often far lighter in alcohol, 8-9 per cent for instance, than most other European wines. Gewürztraminers, from Alsace ideally but a German grape, are especially good with savoury or spicy foods.

There are a couple of disadvantages, of course. The exchange rate is not in the habit of moving in Britain's favour, so you won't find great German wines at rock bottom prices. And because of their

relative unfamiliarity it is not always easy to get proper advice. It is improbable that the average inhabitant of an off-licence knows anything at all about German wines, so you should seek a specialist faster than you can say Trockenbeerenauslese.

Any long-established firm should do — Berry Bros & Justerini and Brooks, for example — and there are individual specialists. Freddy Price is an independent wine consultant and importer who handles seven estates from all Germany's wine regions, the Rheingau, Rheinpfalz, Nahe, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Franconia and so on. Many of these are historic vineyards, such as the Juliuspital at Würzburg, the Max Ferd Richter properties in the Mosel, and the Anheuser estates at Bad Kreuznach.

You need such an enthusiast to lead you through the various styles from Kabinett to Auslese, from everyday drinking wines to the extraordinary Eiswein. Intensely sweet collectors' items at well over £50 a bottle. Freddy Price's portfolio covers the whole field, at prices in the £5-£15 range.

JOHN GRAHAM

● Waitrose Direct: 0181-543 0466. German Wine Information Service: 262a Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL. 0171-376 5329. Freddy Price: 48 Castlebar Road, London. W5 2DD. 0181-997 7889. Fax 0181-991 5178.



## No charges for making changes

AIR FRANCE's new and flexible "Tempo Challenge" fare is aimed at budget-minded executives flying to Paris from London, Birmingham, Manchester or Edinburgh. Passengers can make changes without penalty and the return fare prices range between £215 (from London) to £332 (from Edinburgh). Details: 0181-742 6600.

□ **JERSEY** European Airways has brought in a £195 family fare between Staines and Belfast. The price covers return travel for two adults and two children. Additional children cost £40, and the ticket has no advance booking or minimum-stay restriction. Details: 0345 676676.

□ **VIRGIN** Atlantic City Jet has a useful £159 return Executive Leisure fare between London City and Dublin. There is a two-night minimum stay restriction, but this need not include a Saturday. Details: 01293-747146.

□ **THE** Travel Bug is marketing discontinued first and business-class fares flying Air India to Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. It is charging flat fares of £1,299 return for first class (normally £3,323) and £859 (normally £2,074) for business class. Details: 0161-740 8998.

□ **TRAVEL** Warehouse has an economy fare which allows travellers to include both Bangkok and Singapore on the same trip. The deal, which is based on flying Finnair via Helsinki, costs £550. Passengers can depart either Heathrow or Manchester. Details: 0171-414 8808.

□ A new series of "Discover Malaysia" airfares are ideal for exploring Malaysia. Prices at between £62 and £125, each airfare provides for five domestic flights covering the various Malaysian states. Details: 0161-740 2626.

□ **BRITISH** Airways and Air India have brought in a novel "triangle fare", allowing passengers to visit both South Africa and India on the same trip. The new ticket costs £1,250, and passengers must spend between 14 and 90 days away from the UK. Typical routing: London-Johannesburg-Bombay-London. Details: 0181-897 4000.

□ **INTER-CITY** West Coast is tackling airlines with an at-

tractive "Scottish Executive Ticket". Costing between £180 and £195, it includes first-class rail travel from London to any station in Scotland, plus seat or sleeper reservations and meal vouchers. Details: 0800-450450.

□ **TRAVELLERS** flying to the Polish city of Krakow face lengthy delays between now and the end of October. The airport is closed for runway repairs and all flights are being diverted to nearby Katowice. Although the airlines are laying on Katowice-Krakow bus transfers, the diversion will extend your journey time by three hours.

□ **BUSINESS** class passengers and frequent-flyer members flying KLM between Heathrow, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Eindhoven now have access to Terminal Four's "Fast Track" system, with its expedited handling of passport and security checks.

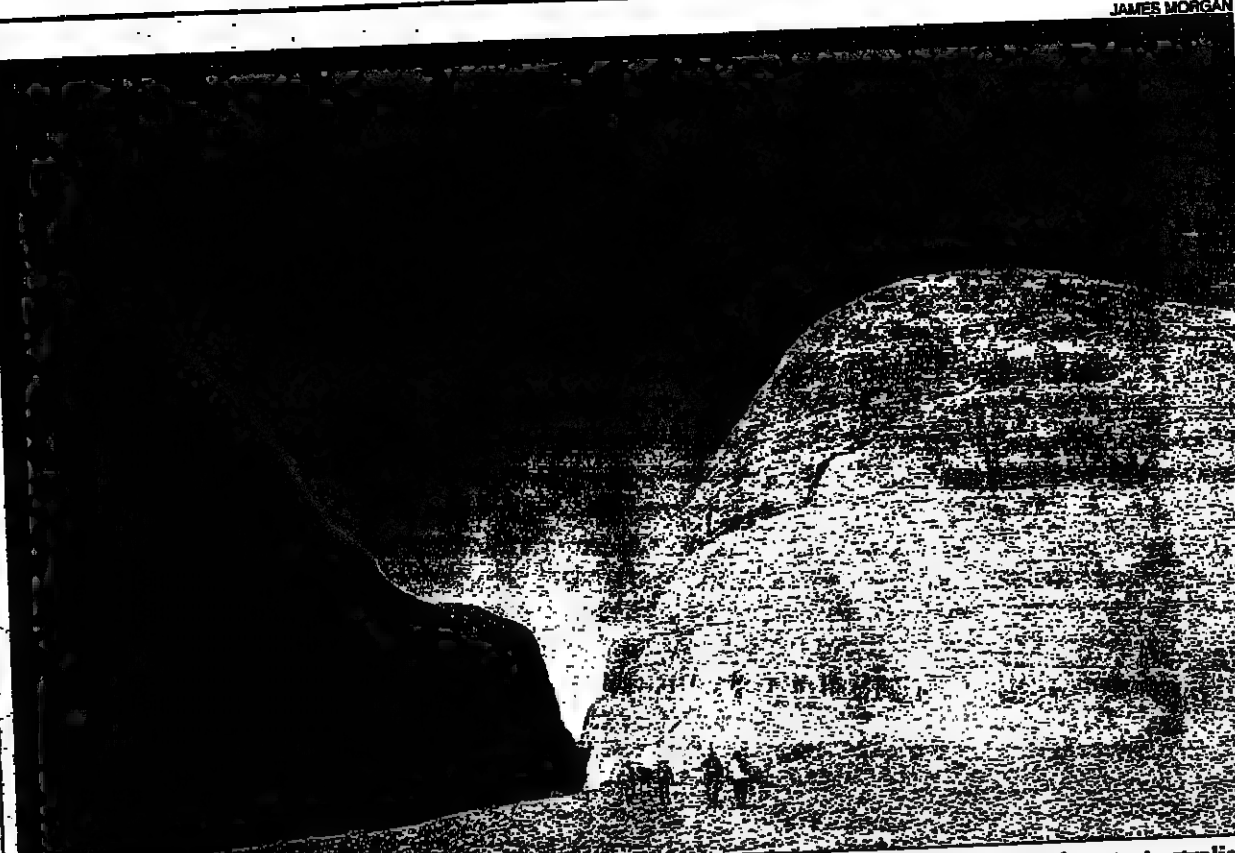
□ **FRENCH** airline Air Liberté, which flies between Gatwick and Paris-Orly, has a low business-class fare of £180 return which also includes a free ticket for the Gatwick Express train from Victoria station. Details from 0345228899.

□ **PRE-BOOK** your space at Gatwick's long-term NCP car park and you benefit from discounted rates of up to 20 per cent, plus commission-free foreign currency and travellers cheques. Details: 0800-128128.

□ **YOU** can save both your time and your temper if staying at an Inter-Continental hotel in Frankfurt or Berlin and flying home with Lufthansa. Provided you have only hand baggage you can check in at the Lufthansa counter within the hotel.

□ **HUNGARIAN** airline Malev is offering a special £665 day return business-class fare between Heathrow and Budapest. Flight schedules allow a stay of up to six hours in downtown Budapest. Details: 0171-439 0577.

□ **AUSTRIA'S** Lauda Air has introduced a new service between Manchester and Milan's Malpensa airport. Although Malpensa is further out of town than Linate (the main airport), it is more convenient for towns and cities across the nearby Swiss border. Details: 0800-767737.



Ayers Rock: today backpackers and older independent travellers are travelling in greater numbers to Australia

## Australia beckons

Harvey Elliott on a boom in new kinds of tourist going down under

Australia is losing its image as the "once in a lifetime" destination for friends and relations to visit. Young backpackers and an increasing number of independent older and wealthier package holidaymakers are heading for the Antipodes.

Ten years ago, fewer than 5 per cent of visitors to Australia were classed as "pure holidaymakers" and almost everyone stayed with friends or relations. Last year, according to the travel company Austravel — which specialises in travel to Australia and New Zealand — more than 30 per cent were pure holidaymakers with no family links in the country.

Andrew Budge, managing director of Austravel, says that the number of British visitors to Australia grew by 10 per cent last year and those heading for New Zealand by 17 per cent. New Zealand now attracts a quarter of all Austravel customers.

"The young backpacker is a very important part of our market," Mr Budge says. "Backpackers make up 20 per

cent of the total market and many are on round-the-world tours after leaving school. They don't book accommodation before they leave but neither do they have friends or relations to visit as many did in the past."

Thomas Cook (01733 335524) says that there has been "an explosion in the Australian package holiday market" in the past 18 months. More than half the company's 40,000 customers who go to Australia or New Zealand are now pure holidaymakers.

The growth in charter flights combined with very keen package prices has produced substantial increases in holidaymakers who are visiting a destination which had previously been reserved for families and friends or an unusual luxury holiday which few could afford," a company spokesman says.

British Airways Holidays included Australia and New

Zealand in its brochures for the first time last year. "There has been an enormous interest from people who do not want to be 'packaged' but want to put together their own itinerary, mixing and matching the places they want to visit," Derek Shanks, worldwide marketing manager, says.

"Our customers tend to be over 45 and want a two or three-centre stay in Australia with a stop-over in the Far East before visiting Sydney, Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef."

BA Holidays (01293 544747) believes that only 40 per cent of visitors are visiting friends and relations. Many of these, however, only stay for a week with families and then head off independently for the rest of the holiday, which often lasts for at least four weeks.

The cost of travelling to Australia can vary. The lead-in price from Austravel, flying for 27 hours on a Britannia

charter jet via Sharjah and Singapore, is £499 return between January and February next year. A typical BA Holidays package including five nights in Sydney, two nights in Cairns and seven nights in Ayers Rock with a one-night stop-over in Asia, is £1,299 between now and June 2. Austravel also has 14 nights at the Cairns Colonial Club from £899. A business-class scheduled return between London and Sydney on Singapore Airlines from now until June 2 costs £1,799 and a first-class return with Qantas is £4,259.

Austravel (0171-734 7755) has launched *Guide to Down Under* — a 48-page holiday and fare guide containing information on seating space on major airlines to fastest flying time and seasonal guide to the best prices.

Despite the big growth in the number of British tourists they represent only the third largest group to visit Australia. Out of 1.7 million visitors who arrived last year, 21.8 per cent were from Japan, 15.4 per cent from New Zealand and 10 per cent from Britain.

Agents for the Eurostar train — which had a set-back yesterday morning when hundreds of travellers were stranded for about three hours after a train became entangled in overhead power wires in Kent — say that it has sold up to 95 per cent of seats on the three-hour London to Paris route for the holiday weekend.

A spokesman said a few places remained but passengers without tickets should check availability (0181-784 1333) before setting out. Some seats are still available on the less popular London to Brussels route.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Problems on the new turn-up-and-go system should be largely over

Passengers travelling with cars to France on Le Shuttle train may have to wait up to one and a half hours if they arrive during the peak morning period of 9am and 10am under the new turn-up-and-go system this weekend.

A spokeswoman for the Shuttle said a wait of more than an hour was normal "during busy periods". Le Shuttle aims to run two trains an hour for Easter and is optimistic that problems caused when the turn-up-and-go system was first introduced last month have been ironed out. She added: "The delays happened in March when on one day we had a

## Easter test for Shuttle

combination of people who had booked tickets and those who had just turned up. There were unhappy customers then, but we feel that now that no one is able to book in advance, those problems will not occur again." Nevertheless, families arriving by car at Folkestone for the popular 10am departure may still find they have to wait.

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MARIANNE CURPHEY

## Water turned on for Easter

Spanish resorts are hit by drought and Canadians wishing to visit them held up by visa restrictions

Holidaymakers who are heading for drought-stricken Spain this Easter weekend should be prepared for water shortages around the holiday period, with those staying at private villas more likely to be affected than those booking into hotels and apartments.

The authorities on the Costa del Sol, the worst hit area, have promised, however, that water supplies will be left on for Easter and rationing re-introduced afterwards. Up to this week, water on the Costa del Sol has been cut for 16 hours a day, with the cities of Malaga, Granada and Seville also suffering.

"There will be no restrictions over Easter," Francisco Mena, director of the Costa del Sol's Hotels Association, promised yesterday. "We have suffered cuts each night because so much water is leaking out of the old supply pipes but the water will be left on this weekend."

He said that many hotels had now fitted water-saving devices to showers and WCs. Since 1960, hotels and holiday apartment blocks have had to incorporate water tanks capable of holding three days' supply. But as in Portugal, the growth of the tourist industry has outpaced the infrastructure which supports it, with the situation now aggravated by four years of drought.

Dams in southern Spain are only 12 per cent full. Jose Borrell, the minister for public works and transport, admits that two thirds of Spain's

water supply system is between 90 and 200 years old, with up to 40 per cent of the water lost through leaks.

Antonio Molina, president of the water authority in Malaga province, said yesterday that £36 million is being spent on an emergency plan for the Costa del Sol, bringing new supplies of water from boreholes in the mountains near Cadiz.

Last year farmers lost 500



million pounds worth of crops in Andalusia because of the drought. Golf courses can only use recycled water, forcing municipalities that still pour raw sewage into the Mediterranean finally to consider water-treatment plants.

This week the other badly hit area, the holiday island of Majorca, started importing water by tanker from the Ebro delta on the Spanish mainland. Neither the Costa Blanca nor the Canary Islands report water shortages.

EDWARD OWEN

## No go area

SPAIN HAS defended its policy of turning away Canadian visitors who do not have tourist visas. Families continued to arrive at airports, unaware of the new rule. Marianne Curphey writes.

A spokesman for the Spanish tourist office in London said the situation had been unforeseeable. "We cannot state how long this measure will be enforced. It was not possible to give much prior warning."

One Canadian family were told this week they would not be refunded in full after having been turned away at East Midlands airport two days after the new visa law was introduced on April 1, as a result of the fishing dispute between Canada and Spain.

Gisèle Angel, her husband Harry, and their two young children had tried to check in on a flight to Gran Canaria only to be told they could not travel without the new three-month visitor's visa. Mrs An-

gel, 34, who lives in Shepshed, Leicestershire, said she had not been informed of the rule and would have been unable to obtain a visa in time because the changes had been introduced over a weekend when visa offices were closed. Last week a Canadian family living in the Cotswolds were ordered to get back on their plane and return to Britain by officials in Las Palmas airport.

The Association of British Travel Agents reiterated its criticism of the Spanish decision. Keith Betton, its spokesman, said Abta had tried to contact as many people as it could to warn them of the changes.

"No one from the Spanish Embassy told us or other travel agents of the new law," he said. "Holidaymakers who have not been allowed to fly should demand compensation from Spain. It is unreasonable to travel and then to be held ransom over such an issue."

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# THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 13 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

## Kerkorian offers \$23bn for Chrysler

**'If this is greenmail, it's an elaborate way of going about it'**

**A man who buys, sells and rebuys**

By ERIC REGULY

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIR  
IN NEW YORK

TRACINDA, the Las Vegas investment company run by Kirk Kerkorian, 77, the casino billionaire, stunned Wall Street by proposing a \$23.8 billion bid for Chrysler, the American carmaker.

If the bid becomes formal it will be second in size only to the \$25 billion Kohlberg Kravis Roberts break-up bid for RJR Nabisco made at the peak of the late Eighties takeover boom in 1989.

Chrysler shares leapt from \$39.25 to \$51 in response to the intended \$25 a share bid but analysts dismissed the offer as an attempt by Mr Kerkorian to put pressure on Chrysler to buy back his 10 per cent holding in the company.

Analysts immediately drew parallels between Mr Kerkorian's manoeuvre and the bid made by the late Eighties. One said: "It is hard to judge what the real agenda is. It is some kind of move to improve the share price but if this is greenmail, it's an elaborate way of going about it." During the Eighties, some would-be

bidders made an approach for a company in the hope of being paid to go away, a practice known as greenmail. The Tracinda announcement was widely well timed. It came as Robert Eaton, the Chrysler chairman, was about to give a speech at the New York car show, America's largest and most important. Mr Eaton scrapped the speech and flew back to Chrysler's headquarters near Detroit.

Chrysler dismissed the proposal from Tracinda, which is best known as the developer of Las Vegas casino hotels. The company said it would review the proposed takeover but said it had received no offer from Tracinda. Chrysler added, however, that it had been informed that a letter would be sent to Chrysler proposing what it described as a "negotiated transaction" subject to board approval and financing.

Chrysler said Tracinda had not hired a merchant bank for the deal and had no commitments for financing. The com-



Kirk Kerkorian, left, has recruited Lee Iacocca as an investor



pany added that although it would consider the offer, it did have a form of "poison pill" defence, but refused to comment further on it. A spokesman said: "This is new to all of us. We are surprised."

Chrysler shares have recently fallen from around \$50 to below \$40. Mr Kerkorian

started buying at \$12 in 1990 but paid around \$47 for his most recent shares.

Earlier this week, Chrysler, the third largest US car group behind Ford and General Motors, cut its 1995 vehicle sales forecast for the third time this year, predicting total sales of 15.5 million cars and trucks

in the US instead of the earlier estimate of 15.8 million.

In its announcement, Tracinda also revealed that Lee Iacocca, 70, the former Chrysler chairman, would join it as a substantial investor but would take no management role. Mr Iacocca was fired as president of Ford in 1978 by Henry Ford II and joined Chrysler as president and chief executive. He worked for a nominal salary of just \$1 a year when he first joined Chrysler but made a massive \$45 million profit in six years on options over Chrysler shares.

Alex Yamenidjian, a Tracinda executive, said: "As Chrysler's largest shareholder, our goal over the last five years has been to seek to enhance value for all Chrysler shareholders."

"We continue to believe that Chrysler's board of directors and Bob Eaton and his management team have done an excellent job of managing the company's operations. How-

ever, despite the efforts of Chrysler's board and management to enhance the market value of the company, the market continues to undervalue Chrysler stock."

Mr Yamenidjian said Tracinda foresees no fundamental changes in Chrysler, its business prospects or its management. He added that the buyout would not be highly debt-laden: "This is not a leveraged buyout, where assets need to be sold to help finance the transaction. The buyers are principals who are investing their own money."

In January, Chrysler trumpeted record annual profits of \$3.7 billion, compared with a loss of \$2.5 billion in 1993, and described 1994 as an outstanding year. Mr Eaton said there was so much money left over that the firm's 80,000 American employees would each receive profit-sharing cheques worth around two months' salary.

Chrysler features the Jeep Grand Cherokee among its most successful models.

Pennington, page 25  
Stock market, page 26

IF Kirk Kerkorian does to Chrysler what he did to MGM, the film studio, America's third-largest car maker is in big trouble.

Mr Kerkorian, a publicity-shy billionaire, is best known for his purchase of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the legendary Hollywood studio. He bought it for \$70 million in 1969 and spent the next two decades breaking it up, piecing it together again, merging it with United Artists and offering the whole mess for sale.

Everybody's Business, the guide to US corporations, said: "Two of Hollywood's most venerable studios [MGM and UA] were battered about like shuttlecocks during the 1980s, ending the decade in limbo, their cultures all but destroyed. Swinging the racket was Kirk Kerkorian, whose

hobby is buying, selling, re-buying and reselling the same properties... By all accounts, he has absolutely no interest in movies themselves."

Mr Kerkorian sold most of MGM to Ted Turner, the man who created the CNN news network, in 1986. He ran into financial difficulties and sold MGM back to Mr Kerkorian, less the film library. What is left of MGM is now controlled by Credit Lyonnais, the French bank.

Mr Kerkorian was born in California, the son of an Armenian fruit seller. His first business was selling used cars. Later, he went into the casino business, using MGM's roaring lion logo to build up the franchise. Today, he owns 76 per cent of MGM Grand Hotel, the Las Vegas hotel and casino group.

## Rate of fall in number of jobless slows

By FRANK R. GARDNER, INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIST

UNEMPLOYMENT fell last month, government figures showed yesterday. But business and City concern about inflationary pressures grew, supporting expectations of a rise in interest rates, even though the rate of decline in unemployment appears to be slowing.

Seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment fell by 20,500 - less than Whitehall statisticians and City economists had expected - to 2,346,200 in March. After revisions to the figures, the drop marked the 19th successive monthly fall and took the decline in unemployment since its peak in December 1992 to 632,300. However, the rate of decline in unemployment showed a marked slowdown from falls of about 50,000 three months ago.

James Price, Employment Minister, said: "Britain, after three years of economic growth, feeding through into

more jobs and fewer people out of work, is about to start its fourth consecutive year of growth." But Harriet Harman, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, said no one now believed the government figures about the "appalling toll of unemployment."

While the increase in average earnings in the year to February was unchanged at 3.5 per cent, a slowdown in productivity appears to be pushing up unit labour costs, which in manufacturing were up by 1.6 per cent in the past three months. This prompted increased City and business concern about inflationary pressures and renewed speculation about a rise in interest rates next month.

However, analysts said the unemployment figures suggested a deceleration in economic growth and implied that the tightening of the labour market seen in the fourth quarter of 1994 had eased.



On target: Sir Rocco, at Le Meridien in London yesterday, anticipated rising room rates

## Forte provides show of strength with £127m

By MARTIN WALLER

A DOWNBEAT warning about the state of consumer demand sent shares in Forte, Britain's biggest hotel group, into reverse despite optimism from Sir Rocco Forte, the chairman, that hotel room rates could be on the rise.

Sir Rocco was announcing profits for the year to January 31 substantially higher than in the previous year but in line with City forecasts, and a frozen dividend. Forte shares, strong earlier this week, ended the day 4p lower at 236p.

"Clearly we have got a long way to go," he said as he presented a set of results that showed pre-tax profits of £127 million, up 65 per cent from the £77 million announced ahead of £34 million of exceptional items the previous year.

An unchanged 4.75p final dividend makes a same-again

total of 7.5p, but this is fully covered by earnings per share of 10.1p, unlike the previous year's payment. Total debt at the end of the financial year stood at £1.6 billion, down by £87 million as a result of the group's positive cash flow.

Sir Rocco added: "We're under no financial pressure whatsoever." The group had more than £500 million of surplus banking facilities, while average length of debt was 11 years.

Forte acquired the French Meridien chain of hotels last year for £280 million, and the figures include a £7 million provision to cover reorganisation. Sir Rocco said integration of Meridien and the existing Forte Grand chain was well under way, although a full merger of the respective head offices needed

to await the statutory consultation with the workforce required in France.

Forte's stable of hotels managed to lift operating profits by 29 per cent to £176 million; the improvement from restaurants, which include the Little Chef and Welcome Break operations, was of 22 per cent to £82 million.

Sir Rocco said while sales and profits were ahead so far this year "general levels of consumer demand, particularly from the UK, are not buoyant". But Forte is optimistic about prospects for its London hotels, which were at full capacity at times at the end of last year. "It's a question of moving the average room rate ahead, rather than the occupancy," he said.

Tempus, page 26

## Anheuser-Busch takes half of London brewery

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Mortlake brewery beside the Thames in west London, one of Britain's biggest and the source of three pints of beer in every hundred, consumed across the country, has a new owner.

Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest brewer, based in St Louis, Missouri, is buying a half stake in a new joint venture that will own the Stag Brewery. The deal will safeguard the 83 jobs at the site, while further employment will be created by the planned installation of a bottling line there.

The other half of the joint venture will be held by Courage, the existing owner, which currently produces

Budweiser beer for Anheuser at Mortlake and is in the throes of being sold to Scottish & Newcastle for up to £600 million.

The purchase is the Americans' first direct involvement in British brewing, although the group has taken stakes in other such ventures around the world.

Courage is owned by Foster's Brewing Group, the Australian lager producer, which bought it from Grand Metropolitan in 1991.

At that time, Anheuser granted the new owner a contract to brew Budweiser at Mortlake, but this was due to expire in 1996 and doubts had been expressed whether the Americans would stay with

Courage or switch the contract to another brewer, putting continued employment at the brewery at risk.

The Stag Brewery, close to the finishing line of London's Boat Race, produces 900,000 barrels a year.

Budweiser is market leader in the premium packaged lager sector with 14 per cent of that market, having overtaken the former biggest seller, Holsten Pils.

Christopher Stainow, managing director of the joint venture that will own the brewery, said the deal would be followed by further investment of capital behind the brand.

Pennington, page 25

FTSE 100			
Index	3288.8	(+78.0)	
Yield	4.05%	(+7.80)	
FTSE 100 share	1894.52	(+78.0)	
Index	1894.52	(+78.0)	
New York	4916.35	(+1.04)	
Dow Jones	5952.87	(+1.03)	
S&P Composite	5952.87	(+1.03)	
FTSE 100			
Federal Funds	5.25%	(+0.25)	
Long Bond	7.38%	(+0.25)	
Yield	7.38%	(+0.25)	
FTSE 100			
3-month bank	5.25%	(+0.25)	
Life long	10.5%	(+0.25)	
Future (Jan)	10.5%	(+0.25)	
FTSE 100			
New York	1.9888	(1.8821)	
London	1.8827	(1.8841)	
DM	2.2348	(2.2361)	
FF	2.7333	(2.7346)	
SP	1.9833	(1.9846)	
Yield	1.9833	(1.9846)	
2 index	84.3	(84.3)	
FTSE 100			
London	1.4038	(1.4010)	
DM	1.4043	(1.4025)	
FF	1.3980	(1.3952)	
SP	1.4038	(1.4010)	
Yield	1.4038	(1.4010)	
2 index	84.3	(84.3)	
FTSE 100			
Tokyo close	Yen 63.42		
FTSE 100			
Three 15-day (Jan)	\$18.26	(\$18.20)	
FTSE 100			
London close	\$20.15	(\$20.05)	
* denotes midday trading price			

## BT forms Italian alliance

BRITISH TELECOM fitted another piece into its European jigsaw puzzle yesterday by forming an alliance with Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, the bank that operates one of Italy's largest private telecoms networks (Eric Reguly writes).

The joint venture, known as Albacom, will be 50.5 per cent owned by BT and 49.5 per cent by BNL. It will combine the telecoms activities and clients of BNL with those of BT, which launched its Italian service five years ago.

BT said that it and BNL, best known as the bank whose Atlanta branch extended \$3 billion in unauthorised loans to Iraq in the late 1980s, would invest about £150 million over the next decade to update Albacom's voice and data network. The total investment figure will depend almost entirely on how much freedom Albacom is given after the Italian telecoms market is deregulated in 1998.

Michael Hefner, BT's managing director, said that Albacom's goal was to capture 20 per cent of the corporate telecoms market in Italy.

Albacom is BT's third European alliance. It recently formed joint ventures with Viag, the German industrial group, and Banco Santander in Spain.

New time, page 27

The Perfect Travelling Companion...

## THE DALVEY VOYAGER CLOCK

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☐ I enclose my cheque for TOTAL £

☐ Please charge my Access/Visa/Amex Acc. No.

Name on Card  Daytime phone No.

Signed  Exp. Date  Delivery: please allow 28 days

TM 30



# Negative equity eases in South East

By Liz Dolan

THE proportion of households with negative equity in London and the South East has slipped below 50 per cent of the national total for the first time since records began three years ago, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

Rising house prices in the South East and East Anglia, the two worst affected regions, helped to reduce the national total by 50,000 to 1,075 million in the first quarter of this year, the Woolwich said yesterday.

Some 50,000 fewer borrowers in London and the South East, and 10,000 fewer in East Anglia, now live in homes that are worth less than their mortgages. As well as an

increase in house prices, this is also due to homebuyers closing the negative equity gap by making extra capital repayments when they can afford to. But the national picture remains patchy. A total of 30,000 more households in three areas — Yorkshire & Humberside, the East Midlands and the South West — slipped into negative equity during the period.

House prices rose by 1.6 per cent in the South East and by 1.2 per cent in East Anglia during the quarter, according to the latest house price index, published this week by the Halifax Building Society.

In the same three months, house prices in the three regions hit by rising negative equity fell by between 1.2 per cent and 1.3 per cent.

First-time buyers, particularly those who purchased their homes between 1988 and 1991, continue to account for three in four households with negative equity.

Claran Barr, UK economist at Morgan Grenfell said: "I wouldn't read too much into these figures, not least because of seasonal factors." House prices tend to fall in the fourth quarter and rise in the first quarter of the year, he said.

In addition, the Woolwich's negative equity figures tend to be lower than those produced by either the Bank of England or by Morgan Grenfell. But Mr Barr guesses that, using his company's estimates, the national figure has probably fallen by about 250,000 to 1.25 million over the past year.

Morgan Grenfell does not expect any real improvement in the housing market until next year or the year after, helped by tax cuts and a real increase in salaries. The Woolwich says an annual 5 per cent rise in house prices will remove most households from negative equity within two years. But Morgan Grenfell is not expecting house prices to rise by more than 2 per cent this year.



Confident outlook: Roger Hurn, right, with Alan Thomson, finance director

## Smiths cuts debt to £14m

By Martin Barrow

STRONG cash flow at Smiths Industries allowed the aerospace and medical systems company to reduce net debt to £14 million from £20 million in the half-year ended January 28, with turnover rising to £408.1 million (£351.3 million). Earnings improved to 5.05p a share (4.6p), and the interim dividend is lifted to 5.05p (4.6p), to be paid on June 2. The shares rose 13p to 484p.

Smiths aerospace business, which lifted profits to £163 million from £141 million, received a boost with the selection by Boeing of its avionics equipment for the new 737 series aeroplanes, due to enter service in 1997. Profits from medical systems advanced to £261 million from £187 million, while the industrial division contributed £161 million, up from £117 million.

Mr Hurn said: "These are good results. The sizeable increase in profits comes equally from recent acquisitions by the existing businesses." Mr Hurn said he was confident of the outlook for a continuing improvement in profits and earnings.

## British Gas resists making TransCo a subsidiary

By Ross Tugman  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS is resisting an attempt by Alan Duncan, a Conservative backbencher, to force it to reconstitute its gas transmission arm, TransCo, as a legal subsidiary.

An amendment tabled by Mr Duncan, a member of the standing committee examining the Gas Bill, suggests that reconstituting TransCo as a subsidiary would provide a better guarantee of fair treatment to rival suppliers than the accounting separation proposed in the Bill.

The Gas Consumers Council is backing Mr Duncan, who lists Harcourt Consultants, a private oil broking and consultancy firm, in the register of members' interests. Ian Powe, the director-general, said that the council believes equal treatment "is more likely to be achieved if there is a separate legal entity called TransCo".

British Gas responded with alarm. A spokesman said that turning TransCo into a subsidiary would cause "disruption". He was unable to say what form this disruption would take. Under government proposals, approved by Ofgas, the regulatory body, the Gas Bill would oblige British Gas to produce separate accounts for its gas transmission business.

Although about half of the gas carried by TransCo is already transported for independent suppliers serving commercial and industrial customers, accounting separation is seen as a necessary prelude to the phased opening of the household gas supply market from April 1996. It would be enforced through the British Gas supply licence.

An Ofgas spokesman said: "As it stands there is a degree of separation, and we are happy with the way that is operating."

British Gas is already under attack by institutional shareholders unhappy about its executive pay and bonus scheme, and struggling to stem a rising tide of customer complaints about service standards.

TransCo accounts for £17.8 billion of British Gas assets and about 80 per cent of its revenues. According to industry observers, the company is terrified that creating a legal subsidiary would pave the way for it to be dismembered.

## ING strikes a bid for Swedish Match

ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group, which last month took over Barings, the London merchant bank, for £660 million, said its Barings Capital Investors unit is leading a consortium bidding for Swedish Match, the lights and tobacco business of Volvo, Sweden's leading industrial group. Stockholm analysts put the market value of Swedish Match, owned by Volvo's BCP subsidiary, at 8-10 billion Swedish kronor (£684-885 million).

Volvo, which has declared its intention to sell off non-core activities and focus on cars and commercial vehicles, last week announced the sale of its food business to Orkla, a Norwegian food group, for SKr4.2 billion. It also put its beverage business into a joint venture with Orkla. Separately, Volvo announced that it had sold its investment banking business, Alfred Berg, to AEN Amro, the Dutch banking group and arch-rival of ING — news that sharply lifted Volvo's shares.

## Goldsmiths shines

THE rapid growth of Goldsmiths Group showed few signs of abating as the upmarket jewellery retailer unveiled a doubling of profits last year. Pre-tax profits jumped to £3.2 million from £1.5 million in the year to January 28. Sales rose by 12 per cent to £53.1 million (£44.6 million) with like-for-like growth of 10.4 per cent. Goldsmiths opened three new stores in the year, bringing the total chain to 117. Operating margins rose to 7.9 per cent from 6.3 per cent. A final dividend, to be paid on July 3, of 2.2p (1p) brings the total to 3p (1p).

## Costs hit Alexandra

THE rising cost of raw materials has hit Alexandra Workwear, Europe's largest workwear manufacturer. Pre-tax profits were squeezed to £4.3 million (£4.3 million) in the year to January 28, on turnover of £61.8 million (£58.5 million). A final dividend of 3.7p a share, to be paid on June 30, brings the net payout to 6p, on earnings per share of 8.4p, down from 9.5p. This year, a £2.5 million relocation will streamline the four Bristol divisions into one. The cost is to be met partly by selling the long leasehold in Alexandra House.

## Le Creuset held back

PRE-TAX profits at Le Creuset, the French cookware company listed in London, advanced to £3.23 million in the year to December 31, from £3 million in 1993. Paul van Zuydam, the chairman, said the 7.7 per cent rise did not fully reflect the underlying improvement, because of the problems caused by the strong franc to exports. Earnings rose to 14.1p a share from 13.4p. The dividend is £0.45 a share (£0.44). Profits were also affected by redundancy costs of £363,000.

## AG Holdings pegged

A 30 per cent rise in timber and other commodity prices held back profits at AG Holdings, the manufacturer of reed furniture and wire rope. In the six months to January 31 reed profits eased to £1.18 million (£1.2 million) despite a rise in turnover to £13.46 million (£8.02 million). The interim dividend is held at 2.25p a share, payable on July 3, from earnings of 4.2p (4.5p). The company said margins had been helped by operating efficiencies. The shares fell 3p to 130p.

## Bloomsbury ahead

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING, which came to the market last June, shook off the effects of flat conditions in the book trade to push pre-tax profits ahead to £849,000 in 1994, compared with £455,000. The figure reflects lower interest costs after the float and a 22 per cent jump at the operating level. As indicated in the prospectus, a final dividend of 2.64p is being paid on the ordinary shares, out of earnings per share of 11.46p. Bloomsbury finished 1994 with net cash of £571,000.

## Thornton chief dies at 49

By Jon Ashworth

ALLAN GRIFFITHS, head of corporate recovery at Grant Thornton, and a leading insolvency practitioner, has died, aged 49. Mr Griffiths, who led the rescue of the Keith Prowse tickets group and helped to orchestrate the Queens Moat Houses rescue package, was taken ill on his way to London on Monday, and died in hospital on Tuesday.

Mr Griffiths had just taken office as president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency, Colin Bird, the society's vice-president and senior partner for corporate recovery at Price Waterhouse, said: "Allan was a man of great status in our profession."

Mr Griffiths built Grant Thornton's insolvency department into a 356-strong team. He helped to orchestrate the Ramblers restructuring and was receiver to Lancer Boss. He leaves a widow, Maureen, a daughter and a son.

## Tender Offer

by

## KPMG CORPORATE FINANCE

on behalf of

## THE ELECTRONICS BOUTIQUE, INC

to purchase up to an aggregate of 16,975,787 Ordinary shares in

## RHINO GROUP Plc

at 8½p per Ordinary share of 5p each

This tender offer closes at 3.30pm on 27th April 1995

Further copies of this tender offer and the accompanying form of tender (upon the terms of which shares tendered will be accepted) may be obtained on request from Independent Registered Group Limited at the address set out in the form of tender.

13th April 1995

To the holders of Ordinary shares in Rhino Group Plc (Rhino)

Dear Sir or Madam

Dear Sir or Madam

Dear Sir or Madam

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## IoD names new head of policy

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the Institute of Directors yesterday announced a new policy head for the organisation in a move that was seen as a further step by the IoD towards the business and political mainstream.

Ruth Lea, currently economics editor of ITN and formerly a City economist, is to take over from Ann Robinson, who leaves the IoD next week to become director-general of the National Association of Pension Funds.

Business leaders saw the appointment as in line with moves by the free-market IoD to draw to itself wider support, after the appointment of Tim Melville-Ross as its Director-General.

However, at the same time, the IoD is seen to have increased its backing for key Conservative Euro-sceptic right-wingers, especially Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary.

Ms Lea said: "I strongly share the institute's belief in wealth creation, the removal of barriers to enterprise and free and flexible markets in goods, services and labour."

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Days	Sale
Australia	2.54	8.07
Austria	16.73	15.23
Belgium	48.30	44.83
Canada	2.20	2.16
Cyprus	0.793	0.895
Denmark	8.40	8.80
Finland	7.42	8.77
France	5.33	7.59
Germany	2.39	2.18
Greece	375.00	354.00
Hong Kong	12.00	11.30
Ireland	1.04	0.95
Italy	5.225	4.475
Italy	282.00	282.00
Japan	147.00	131.00
Malta	0.089	0.084
Netherlands	2.855	2.695
Norway	10.87	9.77
Portugal	248.00	227.00
Spain	12.28	71.46
Switzerland	1.07	1.07
Turkey	1.00	650.07
USA	1.886	1.986

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

## PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1994 RESULTS

Year ended 31st December 1994

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	1994	1993
Turnover, including Associates	£4,156.2m	£3,507.9m
Profit Before Interest	£317.0m	£217.7m
Profit Before Taxation	£283.3m	£177.3m
Earnings per share	68.6p	47.4p

PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND OF 16.4p (1993 - 14.4p)

MAKING A TOTAL FOR THE YEAR OF 23.0p (1993 - 21.0p)

AN INCREASE OF 9.5% FOR THE YEAR

The 1994 Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 27th May 1995. To reserve a copy, telephone 01942 544444

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 13 1995

□ Doing the asset shuffle with Kirk Kerkorian □ Courage clears away the hurdles □ City swallows a sleeping pill

## Buying a Chrysler on credit

**KIRK KERKORIAN** made his first fortune in the 1940s flying war-surplus Dakota transport aircraft back to America and peddling them to airlines. He has been buying and selling assets — often the same assets, several times over — ever since.

Only one of the many businesses that have run through Mr Kerkorian's fingers, during the past half century has been the MGM Grand Hotel and casino group in Las Vegas.

A gambler by nature, Mr Kerkorian must now be hoping that the pitiable bid for Chrysler, America's third-largest car maker, by his Tracinda investment vehicle will unleash a flurry of rival offers. Of one thing we can be sure: he has no interest in making cars, any more than he was interested in making movies. Mr Kerkorian systematically dismantled MGM, one of Hollywood's most venerable studios, during the Seventies and Eighties.

The support of Lee Iacocca, who laid the foundations for Chrysler's extraordinary recovery during the early 1990s adds little to the credibility of Tracinda's unfunded \$23 billion takeover offer for Chrysler.

Mr Kerkorian said that while Mr Iacocca was willing to invest \$50 million and act as an adviser, he would have no management role. "I don't see

Lee becoming an officer of the company or chairman of the board or anything of this sort," said.

Indeed, Mr Kerkorian could find little to criticise in the conduct of Chrysler's affairs, apart from the prudence of its management in squirrelling away some cash for the next downturn in the car industry cycle, which is hardly a capital offence in any management textbook.

He did, however, suggest he would like to bring in some foreign investors who could help Chrysler to develop its business in overseas markets.

Away from the fevered atmosphere of Wall Street, Chrysler seems to be doing pretty well. In Britain, ably partnered by Incheape as a distributor, Chrysler has relaunched its Jeep and sports car. Sales last year were double expectations.

Mr Kerkorian's gamble is financial, not industrial. Mr Kerkorian says he has arranged no financing for his \$55-share offer because he did not want his plans to leak. Tracinda claims to hold 10 per cent of Chrysler's

shares. Yesterday, the stock climbed more than \$12 a share to \$49.25.

At that level Mr Kerkorian is already sitting on a \$400 million profit. Not a bad mark-up on the cost of holding a press conference. If a bidding war ensues, Chrysler could fetch \$70 a share or more, raising his profits to stratospheric heights. That might be good news for Mr Kerkorian, but saddling Chrysler with more than \$10 billion of debt will do nothing to help its business prospects. Just look at the damaged caused by the leveraged buyouts of the Eighties.

### This Bud's for you

□ THE omens have never been quite so wrong as those that suggested the American Anheuser-Busch was about to leave Courage's high-tech Mordlake brewery for pastures new. So it is probably worth taking a few moments to consider who the unreliable soothsayers might have been.



The finger can most fairly be pointed at anyone who would gain from such a move, such as a potential successor on the contract, or from any muddying of the waters as the Courage sale to Scottish & Newcastle draws nearer. Unfortunately, this takes in pretty well all the British brewing industry.

The future of the Anheuser-Busch contract was one of the bridges to be crossed before the Courage sale takes place, since both parties must take soundings from all of the owners of brands they produce under license. One option was for the Americans to buy the Stag Brewery outright, but this has never been their style. Instead the transfer of the Stag brewery

into a stand-alone joint venture dedicated to just one brand and controlling distribution and marketing should make the job of getting the Courage-S&N merger through the Office of Fair Trading a little easier. The link will produce a brewer with 30 per cent of all production, which would normally signal a MMC reference and/or substantial divestments.

But the indications are that S&N will use the growth of imported beer, both along normal distribution lines and in the boot of cars on ferries and through the Channel Tunnel, to support its case. If the total beer market is taken into account, the argument will go, including the 15 per cent that is imported, the Courage and S&N's combined market share magically drops to 25 per cent.

The market reckons that the deal, by now somewhat delayed, will finally be announced by the end of this month, along with a rights issue from S&N to pay for it. Time will tell how much favour the above logic will find at the OFT, but it is likely to be vigorously attacked by the likes

of Bass, current market leader, whose 24 per cent of production would be eclipsed by a newly merged rival.

### AAH, that'll do nicely

□ THE City has been remarkably listless about the battle for AAH, the pharmaceutical distribution business. When GEHE launched its original offer last month, the general reaction from institutions seemed to be relief that someone was prepared to bail them out of a sticky situation, given the company's recent profit warning.

AAH has gone through the motions of a defence, using the time-honoured phrases such as "inadequate and opportunistic". But it is always difficult to defend a company whose earnings per share have fallen 33p to 21p in the past five years. Even though last year's performance may have been a disastrous aberration, AAH has singularly failed to deliver real growth.

The advance in its profits in recent years has largely been

driven by issuing shares for acquisitions, which boosts the bottom line but does little for shareholder wealth.

The lack of support or interest in AAH's case can be judged by the ease with which GEHE bought a 15 per cent of the shares yesterday. Clearly most fund managers were keen to cash in before they head off for the Easter holiday. GEHE has lifted its offer by a token 25p a share, to the price it probably intended to pay all along, and the City seems happy to close the book on the affair as soon as possible.

Such indifference is a shame, since AAH is a business that people outside the Square Mile care a great deal about. For all its faults, AAH controls 30 per cent of the wholesale drugs market in Britain. Its effectively the delivery point for the National Health Service, ensuring that vital medicines reach patients efficiently.

It would be churlish to suggest that such a company is a national asset. If so, it is in need of some repair so a grant from the National Lottery is well overdue. But it is perhaps just as well for the fund managers that MPs do not seem to have realised that AAH will soon be in German hands. If they did, they might create a huge stink under the guise of national interest and throw a spanner in the City's machine.

## Gehe raids market after lifting bid for AAH

By CARL MONTGOMERY

GEHE, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler, launched a market raid on the shares of AAH yesterday, raising Gehe's interest in the UK company to 17.8 per cent only hours after the Germans increased their bid for the UK wholesaler by 25p to 445p per share in cash.

An announcement from Gehe confirmed that, since now, the broker had bought 236 million shares, giving Gehe control over a total of 15.9 million shares.

Among the stakes sold are believed to be 550,000 owned by Britannic Assurance and 30,000 from Equitable Life. Speculation around PDM, the fund management group owned by UBS, the Swiss bank, which holds 17 per cent of AAH and has, in the past, played a role in swinging the odds in bid battles.

Gehe had already acquired 1.28 million shares, or 1.4 per cent, during the offer period.

AAH rejected Gehe's increased offer. John Padovan, the group's chairman, described it as inadequate and an opportunistic attempt to acquire the company on the cheap and said Gehe had not taken up the opportunity offered by AAH in examining the 1995-96 budgets of its pharmaceutical wholesaling business as part of a negotiation.

Gehe said that the increased offer was made to match the general rise in the equity market, pointing to a 5 per cent increase in the FT-SE 100

index and a 2.5 per cent rise in the all-share index since the original bid was announced.

Dieter Kaemmerer, chairman of Gehe, said the offer of 445p represented almost 21 times the earnings of AAH last year. "It takes full account of the rationalisation that has taken place and the magnitude of the task involved in trying to improve AAH's performance."

Gehe may consider a rationalisation of AAH's warehouses. The Germans have attacked AAH's low operating margins and the market has compared AAH's operating margin of 2 per cent with the 3 per cent achieved by UniChem, its main rival, which has fewer depots. Comparing the two, Herr Kaemmerer said: "Eleven or 12 may be a better number than 17 or 18."

He said that Gehe had insufficient information at present to make a decision about depots and said that the key was to have effective systems or controls. He pointed to a fall in free cash flow at AAH, in spite of the recent rationalisation.

Gehe has dramatically reduced the number of warehouses in its French operation OCP, acquired in a takeover in 1993. In the first year, 12 were shut down and another ten were closed this year from an original total of 78. In Germany, Gehe runs its £2 billion wholesaling operation from 18 warehouses.

### Nurdin & Peacock falls by half

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DICKIE RULFORD, chairman of Nurdin & Peacock, the cash and carry operator, admitted the group had been through a painful year but predicted an upturn in the coming year.

"We have taken a lot of pain but that is now past. This year we will start to get some benefits," he said. Last month N&P was forced to abandon its Cargo Club warehouse format after disappointing sales and has been hit by disruption to its core cash and carry stores, which have been converted to a new format.

The cost of these developments took its toll on pre-tax profits, which tumbled to £16.5 million from £32.1 million in the year to December 31.

However, like-for-like sales, which fell 1 per cent last year, are currently up 3.3 per cent.

Mr Rulford said the group had had no further discussions with SHV Makro, which last month proposed a merger of the two businesses.

A final dividend of 4.74p (4.44p) brings the total payout to 6.5p (6.5p). Shareholders will be paid on July 3.

### Growth in Germany helps RMC

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE East German construction boom and recovery in the UK boosted profits at RMC, the ready-mix concrete and aggregates group. Germany now accounts for more than half the profits.

The company is anticipating further growth in Germany with the completion this year of improvements at the Ruidersdorf cement works near Berlin, where RMC will have invested £300 million by the end of the summer.

Profits bounced from £177 million to £283 million in the year to December, with the UK contribution more than doubling to £72 million. Growth at home came mainly from a 10-11 per cent boost in sand and gravel volumes and 6-7 per cent price increase for ready-mix concrete. Another similar price rise was put through in March, but the company insisted that prices in real terms were still about 10 per cent below peak levels in the late 1980s.

RMC is expecting slower growth in the UK. It is paying a 23p dividend for the year, up 9.5 per cent.

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Banks were in focus again as ABN-Amro Hoare Govett recommended a switch out of

helped by Bund strength saw the June series of the long gilt future end 14 ticks higher at E103<sup>30</sup>/<sub>32</sub>, on quiet volume of 36,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, gains stretched to ½ for longer-dated issues, while index-linked rose ¾.

□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares became becalmed in morning trading as the \$22.8 billion offer for Chrysler continued to dominate the market. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 1.04 points at 4,188.12

WEEKLY PRICES	
RISSED:	
Alled Irish	280c (+14c)
Barclay	781c (+1c)
SC Wertburg	746c (+17c)
Yule Gatto	238c (+13c)
Brown Hill	889c
Scot Food	494c (+3c)
Food	749c (+17c)
Amerishan	877c (+1c)
Thomson Corp	808c (+20c)
SmithHelm	821c (+10c)
LEWIS	150c (+11c)
W. Resident	891c (+14c)
FALLS:	
Hembros	212c (+2c)
RMC Corp	1040c (-22c)
Cycle Stewars	1444c (-8c)
Sacbe	670c (+3c)
Stewars	958c (+10c)
J. Garbajay	620c (+5c)
Weekly Prices Page 28	

is hard to fault an operating margin of 11.5 per cent.

Even more reassuring is the group's ability to maintain a high cash flow, which it is applying to expand its acquisitions, to expand its medical and industrial divisions. In spite of spending £27 million on acquisitions in the first half of the year, net debts fell £6 million to a negligible £14 million, leaving the group open to the criticism that it is undergirded.

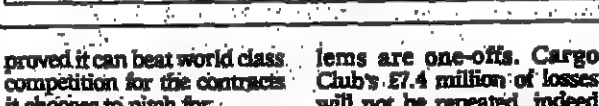
Smiths shares are looking even more attractive now that good news is beginning to flow through in from its aerospace division. By winning the order from Boeing for the new T-37's flight management system, Smiths has

the consequent disruption to sales, which reduced gross profit by 21.8 million, will not recur. The M6 acquisition should also start contributing to profits this year.

That said, there is still a lot to be done. Underlying operating profits fell 19 per cent, largely as a result of lower margins. N&P is working hard to turn that round. The product mix has been improved with greater emphasis on higher margin non-food lines. The group is also increasing the proportion of own-label business.

With recovery on the cards and no rumours in the air, the shares could go further.

**EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT**



It is hard to fault an operating margin of 11.5 per cent.

Even more reassuring is the group's ability to maintain a high cash flow, which is a key reason why investors are willing to expand its medical and industrial divisions. In spite of spending £220 million on acquisitions in the first half of the year, net debt rose only £6 million to a negligible £14 million, leaving the group open to the criticism that it is too overgeared.

Smiths shares are looking even more attractive now than good news is beginning to flow through in from the company's divisions. In fact, by turning the order book from Boeing for the new 737's flight management system, Smiths has

hard to pay that price when there are so many cheaper stocks in the sector, the shares should not be sold.

## Nurdin & Peacock

**EVERYTHING** that could go wrong did go wrong for Nurdin & Peacock last year. *Cargo Club* failed, converting its cash-and-carry stores to a new format severely disrupted sales, margins nosedived and it received an unwelcome merger offer from *Prox* Malco, one of its rivals.

Pre-tax profits halved last year, and management can justifiably feel the only way is up. The question is how far. Many of its prob-

**EVERYTHING** that could go wrong, did go wrong: for Nurdin & Peacock last year's *Cargo Club* failed, converting its cash-and-carry stores to a new format severely disrupted sales, margins nosedived and it received an unwelcome merger offer from SHV Makro, one of its rivals.

Pre-tax profits halved last year and the management can justifiably feel the only way is up. The question is how far. Many of its prob-

The consequent disruption to sales, which reduced gross profits by 4.5 million, will not recur. The M60 acquisition should also start contributing to profits this year.

That said, there is still a lot to be done. Underlying operating profits fell 19 per cent, largely as a result of lower margins. NBP is working hard to turn that around. The product mix has been improved with greater emphasis on higher margin non-food lines. The group is also increasing the proportion of own-label business.

With recovery on the cards and M60 resources in the air, the shares could go further.

**EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT**

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		Series 2001 Sep Dec Jan Sep Dec					
14	4	14	42	90	140		
14 1/2	25	41 1/2	88	99	101	Naïf Pwr...	420 21 1/2 34 1/4 14 18 21
14 1/4	45	66 1/2	89	119	154 1/2	(P300)	460 4 11 18 42 44 46
14 1/2	61 1/2	101 1/2	104 1/2	132 1/2	169 1/2	Scot Pwr...	300 18 25 31 9 10 16 19
92	—	130	—	181	—	(P300)	360 5 10 18 26 34 37

Stockholm .....	11.6740-11.7510	11.7080-11.8000	1-2 ds	5-6 ds
Tokyo .....	132.57-133.90	11.7090-11.7330	1-2 ds	5-6 ds
Vienna .....	15.56-15.76	133.39-133.64	4-5 yr	14-16 yr
Zurich .....	1.8346-1.8427	15.73-15.76	2-4 yr	7-9 yr
Source: <i>Exel</i>		1.8398-1.8427	4-5 yr	14-16 yr

Premium = pr., Discount = ds.

2,100	Warburg	1,000	Dun & Bradstreet	57	57	Norwest Co.
5,800	Whitehead	1,000	Du Pont	62	62	Nysack Corp.
2,700	Wilms Field	1,400	Berman Knott	52	52	Goldstein
3,800	Wolfsley	1,900	Zaner Corp.	54	54	Otto Klein
1,300	Zeneca	1,600	Amerson Elec.	64	64	Orstedt Sys.
			Engelhard Corp.	35	35	Oya Amer.
						Owens Co.

2%	26	Woolpool	2%	25
2%	26	Whitman	2%	25
2%	25	Winn-Dixie	2%	25
2%	20	Woodsch	2%	25
3%	31	Worthington Ind	2%	25
3%	12	Xerox	2%	117
3%	37	Yellow Corp	2%	17



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THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Through the  
glass ceiling

THE 14-strong executive committee of the Halifax, following its merger with the Leeds, will not be an entirely grey-suited affair. Judy Atchison, currently general manager market and product development at the Leeds, smashed through the glass ceiling yesterday when she was appointed director of mortgages and savings for the merged society. The move makes her the building society movement's most powerful woman. But former colleagues predict that she will go yet further. "Approachable and non-elitist" are among the compliments she attracts. The exploitation of household name brands is Atchison's forte. At RHM, where she was marketing director until 1991, Bisto and Hovis were her concern. At the Leeds, she developed the Home Advantage mortgage service and polished the Liquid Gold savings range, so successfully that Liquid Gold will replace the Xtra brand, after the merger. Her fans confidently expect further innovations.

Team toast

THE drinks team at NatWest Securities, still steady on their feet after their annual "on site" inspection, have named the Punch & Judy pub in Covent Garden as their Pub of the Year. Geoff Collyer, Michelle Proud and Grieme Eadie annually invite fund managers on a "tasting and seeing" visit to the outlets of the drinks companies they follow. They started out with a spring in their step at 2pm, and at 8.30pm, tottered to the traditional dinner marking the end of their working day. The Punch & Judy won because it was demonstrated that despite limited customer space and heavy crowds, it generates a marvellous return on investment.



"Perhaps British Gas is demergering its pipelines"

Booked out

PUBLISHERS are not noted for being shy, but there is a glaring omission from yesterday's first set of annual figures from Bloomsbury. Publishing yesterday, there was no mention of that book — *A Princess in Love* — which sold 160,000 copies in three months and was an undoubted profits spinner. Nigel Newton, Bloomsbury's chairman, denied that he was in any way ashamed of the book, which concerned the Princess of Wales. "It attracted a disproportionate amount of coverage, inevitably," he said.

Dressing down

PERHAPS it is just as well the Easter weekend looms and the City is emptying, because today is "dress down" day at that very pulka of investment banks, JP Morgan. It is all on behalf of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, the bank's nominated charity for 1995. This is the first time that JP has ever had a dress down day in London, where 2,600 are employed and where office dress is ever so correct.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Japan's latest  
economic package  
could provide a  
precedent for the  
management of the  
global economy

TOMORROW, the Japanese Government will announce its fifth massive package in five years to stimulate the economy, support the Tokyo stock market and stabilise the yen. If the package fails, then Japan will be facing a national disaster that will make the Kobe earthquake look like a minor hiccup, for all its tragic human cost. Failure would open up the very real possibility of the second most powerful nation on Earth — and one whose history has been notable for sudden outbreaks of extremism, barbarism and chauvinist violence — experiencing a 1930s-style economic crash and a political breakdown exemplified by this week's election of two bawdy comedians to run the cities of Osaka and Tokyo.

It, on the other hand, the Japanese are successful and manage to bring down the soaring yen, the whole world will take a big step nearer to achieving financial stability and sensible economic management on a global scale.

The very fact that stakes are so high may force Japanese bureaucrats to delay precedent, sink their petty differences and finally come up with a package that works. The minimal requirement for success will be for the official discount rate to be cut from 1.75 to 1 per cent, a cut which the Bank of Japan foolishly hinted at and then failed to announce last week, triggering the latest currency crisis. But that alone is unlikely to be sufficient.

To be sure of getting the yen back to a reasonable level above 100 to the dollar, the Japanese will have to do more than just cut the discount rate and announce another round of public works programmes. Indeed, if the fiscal stimulus in tomorrow's package helps Japanese industry and banks to live with the deflationary consequences of the strong yen, it could actually be counter-productive. Anything that makes the strong yen less painful will simply encourage markets to keep pushing it higher until the pain becomes unbearable.

To succeed, the Japanese must explicitly and publicly recognise that the dollar-yen exchange rate is not America's problem, but Japan's — and that it is up to Japan alone to deal with it. The Japanese Government and central bank must stop blaming American fiscal policy or trade deficits. They must acknowledge that Japan's trade imbalance is failing to respond to currency movements because of Tokyo's failure to dismantle the regulations and trade barriers that keep out foreign goods. But they must also recognise that any Japanese deregulation programme, just like the US efforts to increase national savings, will take years to achieve results.

In the meantime, therefore, Japan must make clear that it will take all necessary steps to bring down the yen, with or without American support. In practice this would mean an undertaking from the Bank of Japan to flood the foreign exchange markets and Japan's domestic money markets with newly printed yen. In technical jargon, the

BoJ must undertake to intervene in the foreign exchanges without limit and promise that the newly printed yen that pay for this intervention will not be withdrawn from the money markets or "sterilised".

How much of this monetary expansion will be needed to bring down the yen is impossible to predict. If there is really a huge demand from Asian central banks to swap their dollar reserves into yen, as discussed on this page yesterday by Anthony Harris, then the BoJ will have to turn on the printing presses at full speed.

If, as I suspect, the global demand for yen would quickly evaporate once the currency started falling, then the BoJ intervention and monetary emission would be quite limited in scope. But the essence of any serious programme to stabilise the yen is that the Japanese authorities should not attempt to make any such prediction. Rather than cutting interest rates gingerly and then cutting again if the yen keeps rising, they must stand ready to supply all the yen the markets demand and to do so without limit. If that means Japanese interest rates dropping to zero, so be it. More likely, interest rates would fall to around 0.5 per cent and then start to rise rapidly as the speculative bubble was finally pricked and the yen collapsed.

Far more important than the precise levels of Japanese interest rates or the techniques of currency intervention is the precedent that Japan could set for global co-operation among the G7. The principle behind such co-operation must be that if a currency relationship is becoming unstable the country that must change its economic policy is the one with the strong currency, such as Japan or Germany. The weak currency country should generally sit back and practice "benign neglect".

This principle — that the burden of

policy changes should fall on countries with strong currencies, rather than weak ones, may sound paradoxical. But there is nothing inherently desirable about a "strong" currency, nor anything unhealthy about a "weak" one: currency strength and weakness are mere figures of speech.

In fact, history shows that far more economic damage has been done by overvalued currencies than by weak ones. This simple assertion turns on its head one of the main assumptions behind every effort at international economic co-ordination over the past 20 years. This assumption, embodied most clearly in the rules of the ERM, is that countries with weak currencies must do all the adjusting. By contrast, the country with the strongest currency is considered the "anchor" of the system and *ipso facto* its policies are beyond reproach.

This principle, known by economists as "asymmetric adjustment", introduced a strong deflationary bias into every effort to stabilise exchange rates in Europe. It goes a long way to explain the disappointing performance of the European economy in the past 20 years and the disastrous level of unemployment across Europe. The deflationary bias of asymmetric adjustment also explains why all efforts to stabilise currencies have ultimately failed.

Countries with weak currencies may be expected to change their policies but they often refuse to do so, since a weak currency generally causes no economic damage or political pain. And even if a "weak currency" country does try to adjust its policies to stabilise its exchange rate, it does not have the means to do so: a government determined to undermine its overvalued currency can print money without limit, but a weak currency country

cannot plausibly tighten its monetary policy without limit.

The principle that weak currency countries are primarily responsible for adjustment thus breaches two fundamental requirements of any successful international arrangement. They invert global power relations by requiring countries that are satisfied with the status quo (ie, those enjoying weak currencies) to make sacrifices on behalf of those that are suffering (ie, those suffering from currency strength). They also demand that countries with weak currencies commit themselves to obligations which they cannot plausibly fulfil, while imposing no obligations on strong currency countries that can guarantee stability.

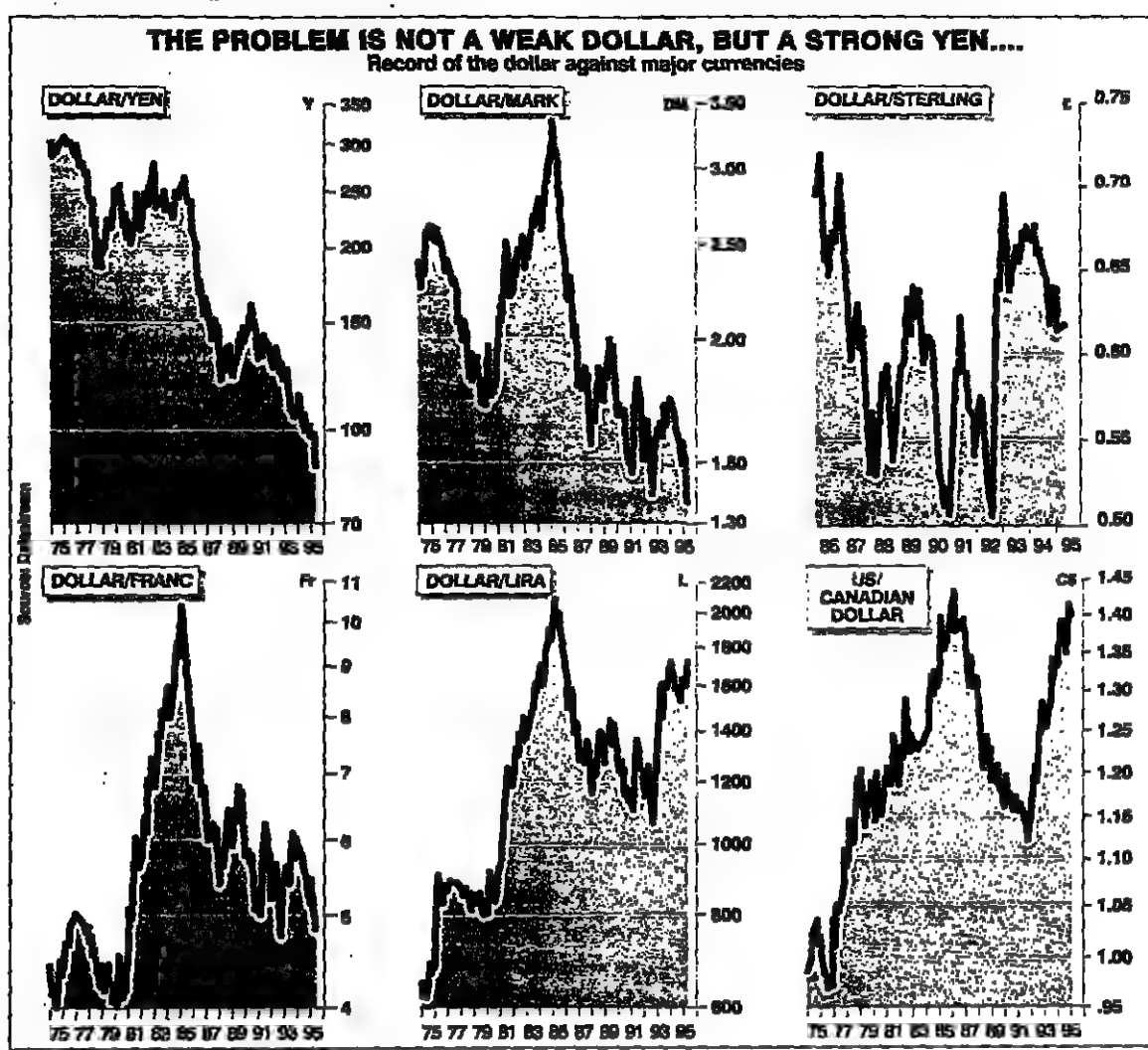
The great significance of tomorrow's Japanese package, if it is successful, will be to bury once and for all the dangerous assumption that weak currency countries must be the ones to adjust. The reality, as the Japanese must now acknowledge, and as even the Germans are starting to hint, is that strong currencies very frequently reflect severe economic distortions, including protectionism, unbalanced monetary and fiscal policies, and excessive financial regulation as well as simple speculation. In Japan's case, all these and other economic distortions are behind the rise of the yen — and the Japanese have only themselves to blame for their present problems.

In a world economy where the main long-term danger is no longer inflation, but underemployment and failure to assimilate the opportunities of free trade and new technology, it is right that countries with overvalued currencies and over-tight monetary policies should do the adjusting. If Japan accepts its responsibilities tomorrow and announces a bold package it will be striking a blow for better economic policymaking around the world.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Tokyo must demonstrate the strength of weakness



## Steering a different course at Daimler-Benz

Colin Narbrough looks at the end of an era at Germany's industrial flagship

DOUBTLESS, Edzard Reuter was glad to be able to confirm rising profits and sales and a higher dividend at Daimler-Benz when he yesterday hosted his final annual results conference as head of Germany's industrial flagship.

But when he relinquishes the management board chairmanship next month, the vision he has pursued of an "integrated technology group" built on the big profits generated for decades by Daimler's Mercedes car arm is set to be abandoned.

"Profit, profit, profit" is how Jürgen Schrempp, 50, head of the group's aerospace division and Herr Reuter's successor, bluntly depicts the future *leitmotif* of the group. The departure of Herr Reuter, with his anchor-man style of corporate leadership, is the end of an era.

To reinforce the change, Gerhard Liener, the finance director, who took flak over Daimler's plunge into the red, is being replaced by Manfred Gentz, the current head of Daimler's financial services arm. In sales, no profit is foreseen this year either. Turning round AEG has defied Herr

Reuter's efforts throughout his chairmanship and before, when he was finance director. Having sold off the white goods business to Elektrolux, of Sweden, Daimler this year put AEG's rail division into a joint venture with ABB, the Swiss-Swedish group. The remains are set to go soon.

Oddly, for the head of Daimler, Herr Reuter is said not to have liked cars. His successor has left no doubt where his enthusiasm lies. The Mercedes star is to be given a new shine under his leadership. Car output will be raised sharply.

More jobs are likely to go in Germany under Herr Schrempp, not least at the group's lavish Stuttgart headquarters, or "bullshit castle", as he once called it.

Reuter's performance under Herr Reuter's stewardship since 1987 has not been crowned with success. He said from the outset that he would need luck. But his strategic ambitions ran into costly trouble on several fronts and the severe recession heightened his misfortune.

Job cutting, especially at its German plants where labour costs are among the world's highest, enabled Daimler to show a group net profit of DM1.05 billion last year, after a DM1.84 billion loss in 1993, under US accounting rules. In its drive to achieve global presence, the group in 1993 became the first German company to seek a full New York listing.

For Herr Reuter, a card-carrying Social Democrat, shedding German jobs has not been easy and he was accused of holding on to labour far too long when times were bad. As Helmut Werner, head of Mercedes and one-time favourite to succeed Herr Reuter, put it, the departing chairman's strategy "looked far ahead ... in the meantime, the world has changed".

However well the Mercedes milch cow has performed, in spite of some mistaken models along the way, motor vehicle profits have been unable to restore Daimler to its former robust health. Sales were 7 per cent

higher last year at a record DM104 billion, but group operating profit was a modest DM2.70 billion.

However, the burdens remain. They are Daimler's aerospace division, which Herr Reuter saw as one of the high-technology areas that would ensure Daimler a leading position in the industrial future, and AEG, its industrial holdings arm, which Daimler helped save from collapse in the mid-Eighties.

The end of the Cold War was no help to Daimler, with its strong defence links. Nor was the costly start-up of Airbus, in which it is the German partner. Daimler also acquired a problem that could cost it billions in the form of Fokker, the troubled Dutch aircraft maker.

Herr Reuter remains confident that civil aircraft will see an upswing to make it all worthwhile. Herr Schrempp, who has been struggling to get Daimler into the black, may be less hopeful. The division's net loss was reduced to DM438 million last year from DM694 million in spite of a fall in sales. No profit is foreseen this year either. Turning round AEG has defied Herr

Reuter's efforts throughout his chairmanship and before, when he was finance director. Having sold off the white goods business to Elektrolux, of Sweden, Daimler this year put AEG's rail division into a joint venture with ABB, the Swiss-Swedish group. The remains are set to go soon.

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## Futures pull shares higher

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	599	598	597	596	595	594	593	592	591	590	589	588	587	586	585	584	583	582	581	580	579	578	577	5
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[illegible][illegible]

120	Value	120	24	14
121	Cost	121	21	13
122	Net	122	3	1.0
123	Net	123	3	1.0
124	Net	124	3	1.0
125	Net	125	3	1.0
126	Net	126	3	1.0
127	Net	127	3	1.0
128	Net	128	3	1.0
129	Net	129	3	1.0
130	Net	130	3	1.0
131	Net	131	3	1.0
132	Net	132	3	1.0
133	Net	133	3	1.0
134	Net	134	3	1.0
135	Net	135	3	1.0
136	Net	136	3	1.0
137	Net	137	3	1.0
138	Net	138	3	1.0
139	Net	139	3	1.0
140	Net	140	3	1.0
141	Net	141	3	1.0
142	Net	142	3	1.0
143	Net	143	3	1.0
144	Net	144	3	1.0
145	Net	145	3	1.0
146	Net	146	3	1.0
147	Net	147	3	1.0
148	Net	148	3	1.0
149	Net	149	3	1.0
150	Net	150	3	1.0
151	Net	151	3	1.0
152	Net	152	3	1.0
153	Net	153	3	1.0
154	Net	154	3	1.0
155	Net	155	3	1.0
156	Net	156	3	1.0
157	Net	157	3	1.0
158	Net	158	3	1.0
159	Net	159	3	1.0
160	Net	160	3	1.0
161	Net	161	3	1.0
162	Net	162	3	1.0
163	Net	163	3	1.0
164	Net	164	3	1.0
165	Net	165	3	1.0
166	Net	166	3	1.0
167	Net	167	3	1.0
168	Net	168	3	1.0
169	Net	169	3	1.0
170	Net	170	3	1.0
171	Net	171	3	1.0
172	Net	172	3	1.0
173	Net	173	3	1.0
174	Net	174	3	1.0
175	Net	175	3	1.0
176	Net	176	3	1.0
177	Net	177	3	1.0
178	Net	178	3	1.0
179	Net	179	3	1.0
180	Net	180	3	1.0
181	Net	181	3	1.0
182	Net	182	3	1.0
183	Net	183	3	1.0
184	Net	184	3	1.0
185	Net	185	3	1.0
186	Net	186	3	1.0
187	Net	187	3	1.0
188	Net	188	3	1.0
189	Net	189	3	1.0
190	Net	190	3	1.0
191	Net	191	3	1.0
192	Net	192	3	1.0
193	Net	193	3	1.0
194	Net	194	3	1.0
195	Net	195	3	1.0
196	Net	196	3	1.0
197	Net	197	3	1.0
198	Net	198	3	1.0
199	Net	199	3	1.0
200	Net	200	3	1.0

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

181	Aluminum	181	2	12.3
182	Aluminum	182	1	2.8
183	Aluminum	183	1	2.8
184	Aluminum	184	1	2.8
185	Aluminum	185	1	2.8
186	Aluminum	186	1	2.8
187	Aluminum	187	1	2.8
188	Aluminum	188	1	2.8
189	Aluminum	189	1	2.8
190	Aluminum	190	1	2.8
191	Aluminum	191	1	2.8
192	Aluminum	192	1	2.8
193	Aluminum	193	1	2.8
194	Aluminum	194	1	2.8
195	Aluminum	195	1	2.8
196	Aluminum	196	1	2.8
197	Aluminum	197	1	2.8
198	Aluminum	198	1	2.8
199	Aluminum	199	1	2.8
200	Aluminum	200	1	2.8
201	Aluminum	201	1	2.8
202	Aluminum	202	1	2.8
203	Aluminum	203	1	2.8
204	Aluminum	204	1	2.8
205	Aluminum	205	1	2.8
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# UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

**HMV**

**JIMI HENDRIX**

*14 tracks including a previously unreleased instrumental, The New Rising Sun plus alternate versions of Message Of Love and Peace In Mississippi.*

*Lavish 24 page booklet includes 20 rare images of Hendrix.*

**CD and MC**

**KNOW HIM. KNOW MUSIC.**



John Power calls for a UK review of the tax position on acquired goodwill

# Better off not buying British

Tax incentives are an important part of the calculations for any acquisition-hungry group. When a UK business is bought, as distinct from a purchase of a company, many of the capital assets acquired attract tax relief. As well as the familiar allowances for industrial buildings, plant and machinery, allowances are also given for acquisitions of patents and certain know-how.

It is possible that the most expensive item on the shopping list will not be an identifiable asset at all – it will represent the difference between the fair values of identifiable assets acquired and the consideration paid. This is goodwill, for which no tax relief is available in the UK. There is also no relief for expenditure on identifiable intangibles such as customer lists, trademarks, and trade names.

The same is true in a company/share purchase. There is no relief because the expenditure is regarded as capital for the purposes of tax law and, accordingly, cannot be deducted to arrive at the trading profits, nor are there any tax depreciation allowances available. In a company purchase, all the expenditure is regarded as being attributable to the shares, also a capital asset.

In both these cases, this acquired goodwill (as opposed to internally generated goodwill) has led to an outflow of cash.

The tax position overseas is



John Power says the tax position overseas is often preferable

strikingly different and often preferable. US taxpayers have always enjoyed a more flexible regime for dealing with intangibles. Until the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act 1993, taxpayers could in general amortise acquired intangibles, where they had a determinable life. No relief was, however, allowed for acquired goodwill as it could not have a determinable life.

The 1993 Act changed this to allow a 15-year amortisation of most types of intangibles such as goodwill, information bases, know-how, customer lists, licences, franchises, and trademarks. Thus a UK company making an asset purchase of a US business will be able to reduce its federal tax burden by amortising the capital costs of its intangibles. An acquisition by the UK company itself may negate the benefit of the US tax saved through further UK tax payable. This can be avoided by using a US resident company to make the acquisition.

Even where shares of a US company are acquired, it may still be possible to obtain relief against US tax for goodwill and other intangibles. Basically, where the target is a member of a US group then a joint election between the vendor and the purchaser treats the target as though it had disposed of

and reacquired its assets (including goodwill) at market value. Depreciation is then based on the "stepped up" market value of the assets. The gain on the rebasing is recognised by the vendor although it may be offset by brought forward losses and unused tax credits.

Many countries in the European Union also allow relief for purchased intangibles. In Germany, a purchaser of assets may amortise goodwill for tax purposes over 15 years and other intangibles over a shorter period. As in the US, it should be possible to effectively step up a company's assets where shares are acquired. Other EU countries that allow tax depreciation for intangibles in an asset purchase include Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands.

Accordingly, there are significant opportunities and incentives for the UK investor to generate tax deductions in respect of goodwill and other intangibles from an asset purchase of a foreign business and possibly a share purchase. In this way, the UK investor can often better its return (in cash terms) over a comparable UK investment.

To encourage more investment in the UK, perhaps it is time for the authorities to review the tax position on goodwill and other companies a clear incentive to buy British.

The author is international tax partner at Touche Ross

## Voice of reason on derivatives

IN the profession's headlong rush to judgment over how it should deal with the threat of derivatives, it is always useful to listen to what might be a still, small voice of reason. One such emerged last week at the annual gathering of the British Accounting Association at Bristol Business School. Professor S.P. Kothari, of the University of Rochester, New York, suggested that, on the basis of his research, derivatives were a good thing the risk of which rational people could happily control.

He started from a position of warning about excessive regulation. "By and large, the markets have been working well," he said in conversation after his address. "But politicians do like to be seen to be saviours." Hence the pressure for instant regulatory solutions.

He takes the view it is abuse of derivatives, rather than their existence that needs to be sorted out. His research has been into the use of derivatives by 425 US financial and non-financial corporations. Part of the research has been into how far companies are using derivatives for risk management, and how far they are using them for speculation. The result of the research into risk characteristics of the participating companies is simple. There was no significant difference between those who used derivatives and those who did not. The assumption is that people are, despite the headlines, using derivatives to reallocate existing risk



ROBERT BRUCE

operation, particularly between UK and US bodies. Regulation, he argued, would be better provided not by politicians looking for a quick fix, but instead by letting the market do the work. "While the spectacular collapse of Barings causes many to focus on the costs of derivatives and potential benefits from regulation, they should not ignore the private incentives of the derivatives market participants. The brokers, traders and owners of the exchanges on which derivative securities are traded have a strong interest in ensuring that a market disruption does not occur."

But in the end, it is internal control where the main pressure can be brought to bear, he said. "The internal and external auditors of a company must understand whether the company, through its derivative positions, is hedging its transaction exposures and economic exposures. This means accountants must discriminate between the risk management and speculative uses of derivatives."

Professor Kothari argued that a system of internal control, which the outside world recognised as supremely effective, should be installed wherever derivatives were being used. The problem is auditors are loth to insist they should police such a system. Until they are willing to force directors into a statement on the effectiveness of internal control, the debate comes to an unsatisfactory halt.

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FILM 1

An unsuited Aussie melodrama of a movie, *Muriel's Wedding* goes after laughter and tears in equal measure



FILM 2

... while in New Zealand, *Once Were Warriors* portrays Maoris stranded in an urban landscape

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3

A creditable acting debut by Janet Jackson, as LA kids do the decent thing in *Poetic Justice*



FILM 4

Alain Delon, jury president, awards top prize to the British at the Cognac Festival of Thrillers

# Shotgun of a wedding

CINEMA: Something nasty in the scenario brings about a divorce between Geoff Brown and *Muriel's Wedding*

he describes himself as fat, stupid and useless. Her father calls her a no-hoper, with no job, no skills. To her old high school friends she is an embarrassment. When she catches the bouquet at a wedding, she is asked to throw it at someone else: nobody could possibly marry Muriel Heslop. But she proves them wrong, for the film — Australia's biggest local hit last year — is called *Muriel's Wedding*.

If John Waters, that chronicler of American bad taste, ever made a film in the Australian suburbs, it would have to look like *Muriel's Wedding*. The wallpaper alone in Porpoise Spit, the "Jewel of the North Coast" where Muriel lives, would cause a migraine, while the clothes people wear singe the eyeballs. Props grow more garish still when Muriel escapes to a Pacific island, where she finds a pal in the ebullient Rhonda, and holidaymakers strew themselves with the pinkiest of flowers and purple sun tops with fake orange crabs perched on each breast.

The film's writer and director, P.J. Hogan, is the husband of Jocelyn Moorhouse, who made her name with *Proof*. Hogan's own first feature shares some of its technical crew, but nothing else. *Proof* was a sophisticated, unsentimental, intriguing drama. This ugly-duckling-in-swamp saga goes after laughter and tears with the finesse of a bull in a china shop.

In its early stages, the film goes along pleasantly enough. Although the humour stays cruel, you still relish Muriel's ghastly home life with her affable but conniving father, the mother living on her nerves, and her slovenly heap of a younger sister. Hogan has a caricaturist's gift.

But once Muriel and Rhonda decamp to Sydney, the film turns aggressively melodramatic. While Muriel pursues her fantasy life through bridal catalogues and a dalliance with a crass Prince Charming, one character is stricken with cancer and another commits suicide. Hogan yanks our feelings this

**Muriel's Wedding**  
Warner West End  
15, 106 mins  
Emotional rollercoaster from Australia  
**Once Were Warriors**  
Warner West End  
18, 105 mins  
Fierce tale of Maoris in the urban ghetto  
**Poetic Justice**  
MGM Trocadero  
15, 109 mins  
Over-ambitious romantic odyssey  
**The Little Rascals**  
Plaza, U. 83 mins  
Tame revival of the Our Gang characters

One child is sent to reform school; another joins the local gang, while sensitive 12-year-old Grace grows increasingly vulnerable.

Tamahori, a veteran director of commercials, gives his first feature the kind of hard edge and visual intensity that Hollywood loves. And what Hollywood loves, it buys: Tamahori is now in Los Angeles directing Nick Nolte in a period thriller, *Mulholland Falls*. It would be a crime if he stays put, for there is a jangling vibrancy to his treatment of New Zealand life.

At home the film, like its source novel by Alan Duff, stirred controversy by presenting Maoris as violent drunks. But Tamahori's eye for a striking image and the powerful cast, led by Rena Owen (see interview right) and Temuera Morrison, overcome many obstacles. This is a powerful, unsettling work.

John Singleton, the young director of *Boyz n the Hood*, returns to Britain this week with his second film, *Poetic Justice*, now two years old. The title alone suggests trouble ahead, for Justice is the heroine's name, and the girl writes poetry. She also chews gum, tends heads at a beauty salon in South Central Los Angeles, and nurses personal grudges against guns and booze. On top of all that, she is the singer Janet Jackson, making her acting debut.

Axiodious to preach the message that crime does not pay, Singleton forgoes ample bloodshed for the romantic odyssey of two souls finding each other. Justice joins her hero-in-waiting, a postal worker called Lucky (Tupac Shakur), on a freight road trip from LA to Oakland. They bicker, gatecrash a family celebration ("We're black, we're all family"), tour the stalls at an African fair, draw closer, and separate.

This central journey is engaging enough, although Singleton only reaches it after several false starts. And the characters' force is constantly compromised by the limitations of Singleton's script. The film drifts: one scene leaves no mark on the next. Justice's



"If John Waters, that chronicler of American bad taste, ever made a film in the Australian suburbs, it would have to look like *Muriel's Wedding*"

## Warrior in the wasteland

The first Maori star, Rena Owen tells David Robinson about how her art changed New Zealand life

Rena Owen descended upon London for last year's film festival with all the exotic aura attached to the first-ever Maori film star. It was not the first time in London for the star of *Once Were Warriors*, though. She lived here in the 1980s, her experiences including jobs as an usherette and a waitress — plus a stretch in Holloway Prison.

Until she was 18 she never even saw a city. "My dad was a full-blooded Maori who married a *pakeha* [Western] woman," she says. "At 18 I went to Auckland to train as a nurse. I never dreamed of taking up acting. But for a clever Maori girl the only possible jobs then were secretary, nurse or teacher."

"I arrived in London in 1982, thinking I knew everything. My Australian flatmate turned out to be a heroin addict. Soon I was doing drugs too. One day my dealer

was out of stuff, so I drove her over to another place to get some. It turned out to be under surveillance. No sooner were we back in her flat than the police showed up.

"Naively, I just told the truth, even though I had nothing on me. So they charged me on my own statement. I was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment. "Prison gave me the time I needed to get myself straight. I fought to get counselling, and the therapy put me in touch with a lot of emotions I hadn't realised, and gave me the need to express myself. I started to write, and I also decided to start acting. I had lucky breaks. I enrolled for evening classes at the Actors'

Institute, then I auditioned for a New Zealand play by Hilary Beaton, which happened to be about a woman in prison. The play went to the Edinburgh Festival and toured for the next eight or ten months."

Returning to New Zealand at the end of the 1980s was not easy. "I had to re-learn my accent for a start, because I talked like a Londoner. And it was a problem being half-caste. If I went for European roles they said I was too dark, and if I tried for Maori parts they said I was too European. There's still terrible stereotyping in New Zealand: seeing *The Piano*, you might think Maoris lived in trees and carried pianos all day."

Still, she soon progressed to

leading roles in television and theatre, and landed a supporting part in Kevin Costner's film *Rapa Nui*. "I went to Easter Island on a two-month contract and stayed there for five months, living in luxury, but never working. It's heartbreaking the amount of money Hollywood wastes on films. *Rapa Nui* cost \$160m. *Once Were Warriors* cost around £600,000, and it earned more than *Jurassic Park* in New Zealand."

"I'm unlikely ever to get a better part than *Once Were Warriors*. In New Zealand the film will finally be remembered, not for its box-office, but for its social impact. Two or three weeks after it was released the help lines were inundated with calls, and women's refuge groups were overflowing. Women and men were saying: 'I've got a *Warriors* problem.' The film gave them licence to talk about these things."

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# ONCE WERE WARRIORS

AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU FROM TOMORROW

## Spirit of murder and mayhem

Richard Gilbert reports from a quiet French town in the grip of an international cinematic crime wave

Cognac is normally a laid-back, attractive town in south-west France known for its Romanesque churches and cobbled streets covered in signposts that look like a tippler's fantasy — Martell, Rémy Martin, Hennessy. But for four days every April the Cognac Festival du Film Policier transforms the town into the headquarters of screen murder, mayhem, violence and suspense.

This curious partnership between international thriller films and the drink of cognac began in 1982. The town wanted to raise its profile and, like almost every town in France, decided to host a themed film festival. As none of the 300 other French film festivals specialised in thrillers, Cognac's annual celebration of the genre took off, helped over the years by the presence of craggy American stars like Robert Mitchum, Lee Marvin, Ray Milland and Charles Bronson.

Alongside the main competition for new thrillers, there are dozens of short films, TV police dramas, all-night showings, retrospectives and tributes to international directors and stars. Unlike most other festivals, in Cognac the films take over the whole town and local people support it with street processions and musical events.

Appropriately, the president of this year's jury was Alain Delon who, for the French, is still the definitive vulnerable

film hero. He and his fellow-jurors for the first time awarded the Cognac Grand Prix to a British film, *Shallow Grave*, which is being released soon in France under the title, *Petites Meurtres Entre Amis*. The film also picked up the Prix du Public which, democratically, gives all the local cinema-goers a chance to vote for their favourite film in the festival.

The Critics' Prize went to *Sonatine*. Takeshi Kitano's elegiac and nightmarish study of clan warfare among the "yakuza" of Japan, Kitano's impressive acting in his own film, playing the right-hand man of a yakuza leader, was one of the most haunting performances of the festival. Quentin Tarantino's frequent tributes to Kitano underline the influence that this Japanese director has had.

The most original American film shown in Cognac was *Saints and Sinners*, directed by Paul Mones. The traditional story of an undercover, gang-busting cop was transformed by Mones's direction and screenplay. A realistic portrait of the drug milieu in Los Angeles, it was awarded the Special Prize by the jury.

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# Let his fingers do the talking

Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini is a man of few words and much genius. Richard Morrison on our CD Direct choice

You do not lightly enter into Maurizio Pollini's world. In fact, in one sense you do not enter it at all. Considering that great performers are supposed to have a consuming urge to communicate, the psychological wall that Pollini has built around himself is remarkable. He is notoriously hard to interview, as I found to my cost in Milan some years ago. I was courteously ushered into his exquisite apartment, then left to conduct what was virtually a monologue in order to extract the odd precious monosyllable in reply. The words "blood from a stone" inexorably came to mind.

In the concert hall, too, Pollini radiates an austere, insular preoccupation that can chill even as it thrills. There are crematorium technicians who go about their duties more chirpily. Pollini is an enigma with fingers. And yet he is one of the greatest pianists of our time, perhaps of all time. The cascading brilliance of his Chopin playing elevates the spirit like a drug, yet one emerges from his performance of, say, late Schubert like the wedding guest from the clutches of the Ancient Mariner: sadder, wiser, and stunned by a storyteller who stares into the abyss of death even on a calm sea. Especially on a calm sea — for in Pollini's hands innocuous tunes turn shadowy and ominous. He can make the great B-flat Sonata, D'960, sound like a winter's journey through a haunted landscape. Yet so lucid is his reading, so stunning his control, so intense his concentration, that the listener is awed into empathy.

Even his famously schizophrenic deconstructions of Beethoven compel absolute attention. First the music might be pressured into astonishingly virtuosic fireworks, then relaxed into a frozen screen akin to the masks of Japanese theatre. This sense of inwardness — a personality as tightly wound as a coiled spring — can convey more naked truth in one movement than many pianists manage in their careers.

Pollini was marked out for greatness early. The son of a violin-playing Milan architect,



Pollini at the keys: one emerges from his Schubert recitals sadder and wiser, like the wedding guest from the clutches of the Ancient Mariner



**CD DIRECT**

he was giving recitals at 11. Nobody who knew him was very surprised when, at 18, he won the Chopin Competition in Warsaw: one of the great piano prizes. He was the youngest of 89 competitors, and completely unprepared for fame. What followed were nightmare years, marked by illness, cancellations, chronic pre-concert nerves, feverish interpretations. In 1963 *The Times* reviewed his British debut in scathing terms: "The impression left by his playing was that he was due to catch the 9.05 from Waterloo..." Pollini disappeared from the concert scene for several years.

He emerged again in London in 1968 to play a storming concert of Chopin's 24 Etudes. Our chosen recording of these pieces gives the flavour of it. It was extraordinary playing: perfectly poised between dazzling technique and emotional warmth. Pollini seemed to have wrapped all the nerves, the shyness, the inner man, in a protective shield of stupendous pianism.

Unusually among top pianists, Pollini champions 20th-century music, especially Schoenberg, Berg (whose Sonata is given an emotionally charged performance on another of our recordings), Webern and Luigi Nono. "Whether it is classical or contemporary," the pianist says, "the most important thing is to understand the necessity of the notes." If that makes Pollini sound like some white-coated physicist explaining quantum theory, it is probably the impression he would like to create. Yet his music-making touches the soul in a way that confounds rational analysis. Perhaps that is why he doesn't see much point in interviews.

**TO PURCHASE** any of these top-price Deutsche Grammophon CDs of Pollini's performances at specially reduced *Times* prices (£33.99 for the 3CD Beethoven set, £12.99 each for the Debussy and Chopin discs, £24.99 for the 2CD Schubert set), simply complete the coupon (below, right). You can get an extra Tchaikovsky CD absolutely free when you order two or more of the recommended items, or the 3CD set of Beethoven.

Beethoven, The Five Piano Concertos, Maurizio Pollini, Berlin PO/Abbado, T04951. This is a brand new release of these wonderful concertos. Recorded live at the Berlin Philharmonic's home, the Philharmonie, these performances capture the spontaneous inspiration of a pianist at the height of his powers, accompanied by one of the world's greatest orchestras conducted by its music director, Claudio Abbado.

Debussy, 12 Studies, Berg, Sonata, Op. 1, Maurizio Pollini, T04952. Besides being a master of the Romantic repertoire, Pollini is also a compelling champion of 20th-century music, and here he plays some of the greatest piano music from this century. Debussy's Studies are fantastic in the true sense of the word — full of colour and daring. Berg's Sonata is very different: his only piano piece. It has a tragic weight and is intensely dramatic.

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Schubert, The Late Piano Sonatas, three Piano Pieces, Maurizio Pollini, T04954. These sonatas were composed in the last year of Schubert's short life, and seem shot through with dark forebodings. Yet they also represent a summation of Schubert's art: full of gloriously expressive melodies. They are played in epic, questing style by Pollini.

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**RADIO: Past potentates to be analysed**

## Dry-cleaning the political soapbox

A FEW days ago the Transport Secretary escaped unhurt from a collision with an interviewer on Radio 4. Brian Mawhinney nearly got a nasty cut when his claim that spending was to increase by 30 per cent was steered back to him by the interviewer, who pointed out that a spending cut had been announced.

However, the airbag of political instinct opened just in time: Mawhinney "was going on to say" that the increase was compared with the 1980s.

Some days earlier, also on the BBC, there was a long interview with Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary. She did not give more than one direct answer to the questions. Most of her replies began along the lines: "But that isn't the key thing, the key thing is..."

Nobody who tunes into Prime Minister's Questions on Radio 5 Live will be left in any doubt that this approach comes from the top. John Major, Mawhinney and Bottomley are not exceptions to the rule, they are normal. Nor is their vacillation new. Politicians have always had a message to put across, and this message is transmitted no matter what questions are asked or how many times John Humphrys interrupts.

Politicians hardly ever turn down radio interviews because from their standpoint there are no radio interviews, there is only propaganda. They know that two minutes is a long time on the *Today* programme, and these people can fill two minutes the way hot air can fill a balloon. A series starting on Radio 4 tonight (8pm) puts all this into perspective. It is called *Makers of Modern Politics* and in it Anthony Howard of *The Times* profiles five politicians who have had a special influence on this century. I doubt if any of them — from Stanley Baldwin to Lord Joseph — was ever bested by a radio interviewer, which is why Howard's series, by revisiting careers in the tranquillity of reflection, is a therapeutic experience for anyone in despair of politics.

And the series offers a light at the end of the tunnel, for it demonstrates that politics on the radio would benefit from more analysis. This would, surely, assist politicians, sparing them the embarrassment and hurt of having their monologues interrupted by Humphrys. Instead, he could interview outside analysts.

Most radio listeners do not wish to know what ministers wish them to know, they wish to know what ministers are up to. So let us have more analysts in the *Today* studio and more ministers getting an extra half-hour in bed, listening to the *Today* programme.

PETER BARNARD

**JAZZ: Bebop veteran still in the front line**

## Flying with Bird

Phil Woods Quintet  
Ronnie Scott's

NAILING his colours firmly to the mast from the off, Phil Woods began his first set with a free-wheeling original, *All Bird's Children*. Dedicated for nearly 40 years to spreading Charlie Parker's musical message, Woods not only married Parker's widow, Chan, but laid the foundations of his own alto style by memorialising the bop legend's recorded solos.

After Parker's death in 1955, Woods incorporated his predecessor's strengths — protean inventiveness, a tone at once tenderly emotional and strident, a profound knowledge of and respect for the blues — into an individual approach honed by 1973, when he formed an acoustic quartet including drummer Bill Goodwin and bassist Steve Gilmore, both still providing the leader with discreet but vigorous propulsion.

Augmented by pianist Bill Charlap and trumpeter Brian Lynch, the quintet is a worthy successor to Woods's superb 1980s band. After the hectic set-opener, to which Woods, Lynch and Charlap all contributed fluent but carefully controlled solos, the quintet, their sound all the

purser for not being amplified — other club-sized venues please note — provided an object lesson in tasteful but fiery small-group jazz.

Both Woods, on his ballad feature *I'm So Stupid of Girls* when *They're Good-looking*, and Lynch, on his brisker feature, Cole Porter's *So in Love*, combined wit and panache with straightforward vivacity.

Even when they laid out, however, the band still swung fiercely, courtesy of Goodwin's restless tempo-breaking interjections. Charlap's quicksilver runs and Gilmore's sophisticated, lightly strummed sound.

Rounded off by a surefooted run through *Willow Weep for Me*, arranged by Woods to incorporate the bass line from Miles Davis's *All Blues*, and culminating in Phil's theme, a clever signature tune consisting of a multitude of bop references, this was state-of-the-art neo-bop from a class act.

CHRIS PARKER

**CONCERT: Young composer comes of age**

## Hollow triumph

BBC Singers/  
Cleobury  
St John's,  
Smith Square

GIVEN his association with the choir of King's College, Cambridge, this concert was more or less what one might have expected from Stephen Cleobury, whose tenure as the BBC Singers' chief conductor begins in November.

A pair of Bach motets, sung with vitality and clarity and supported by the organ continuo of Christopher Hughes, framed the programme with solid, age-of-reason counterpoint. There was also a new piece by Andrew Simpson, a composer still only in his early twenties. *The Hollow Hills* is a dramatic scena based on the closing episodes of the legend of King Arthur, underpinned by the words of the *Lacrimosa* from the Requiem Mass and good texts by the composer.

He showed himself to be already a consummate craftsman, concerned with line and balance and with reflecting the mood of the moment. The music is innately and immediately expressive, with a rich harmonic vocabulary, a sure

sense of direction and an unselfconscious inventiveness. Herbert Howells's little Requiem, composed in the 1930s, formed the basis for the *Hymnus Paradisi*, but remained unperformed for longer, only being resurrected in the 1980s by the BBC Singers themselves. The harmonies are refined and subtle, sometimes gorgeously crunchily, but the manner is fundamentally straightforward and economical in these six short pieces. Like the two rich, poignant works taken from Sir Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, they were delivered with finesse.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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# Reasonable notice required for public body Rebutting presumption of advancement

In re Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute  
Before Mr Justice Carnwath  
[Judgment March 21]

Where a body conducting a public function occupied land as licensee, the landowner could not terminate the licence without reasonable notice. A valid notice was one which gave sufficient time to enable practical arrangements to be made to safeguard the public service and to enable the provisions of the statute under which the licensee was operating to be followed.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in a recent judgment in the Chancery Division in an action brought by the governing body of the Henrietta Barnett School and Barnet London Borough Council against the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, a company limited by guarantee, and the Attorney-General. The Secretary of State for Education was granted leave to join the proceedings as an intervenor pursuant to Order 15, rule 1(2)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Nigel Davis, QC and Mrs Frances Quin, for the school governors and Barnet; Mr Edward Nugee, QC and Mr Colin Challenger, for the institute; Mr Michael Furness, for the Attorney-General; Mr William Charles and Mr Richard Morgan for the Secretary of State for Education.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the institute was the

owner of the site at Central Square in Hampstead Garden Suburb and was the umbrella charitable organisation for various educational activities that took place on it, whether in the nature of preparatory, secondary or adult education.

The Henrietta Barnett School, a girls' secondary school, although it had become a major part of the institute's activities, was always seen as part of that wider unity.

The school, which started life in 1912, became a voluntary aided school under the Education Act 1944.

On December 28, 1986 the institute executed a deed styled as a "declaration of trust" whereby the arrangement between itself as owner of the site and the education authorities could be formalised.

Clause 13 of the declaration provided that it should be lawful for the institute to revoke, vary, alter or amend or alter all or any of the trusts, powers or provisions of this deed.

The Department of Education and Barnet Council, as local education authority, made enormous contributions over the years to the running of the school and repair of the buildings pursuant to their responsibilities under the 1944 Act. In return, the institute paid over £3 million towards the cost of repair and renovation of the buildings.

By 1990 the institute was becoming concerned about its deteriorating financial position and its ability to fund its educational projects other than the school. On

March 18, 1993 it served a notice revoking the 1986 declaration of trust and purportedly terminating the school's right to use and occupy the premises on or before December 31, 1993.

The notice was accompanied by a "without prejudice" letter which made it clear that the school could continue to use the premises for a limited period on condition that it paid a market rent. It was common ground that such funds would have to come, if at all, from public money.

The school and the education authorities brought proceedings for an order that the notice be invalid. The court rejected their argument that any such notice would be invalid. The crucial issue was what period of notice was lawful.

If the school's right of occupation could be terminated without notice, the scheme contained in the Education Act 1944 and its successors, which included detailed machinery for regulating the discontinuance or transfer of schools, could be overridden entirely without warning.

The 1986 declaration of trust was specifically made against the background of the decision that the school was to become a voluntary aided school and its purposes were to enable the school to function satisfactorily as such.

The revocation clause in clause 13 could not have been intended to give the institute power to frustrate that purpose.

Furthermore, such an interpretation would be difficult to

reconcile with clause 9 which provided that where buildings became unsuitable or unnecessary for the stated purposes the institute might sell them, but "subject to the consent of the Minister of Education and such other consents as may be required by law being first obtained".

That seemed to be a clear recognition that even redundant buildings could not be disposed of without the consent of the minister. A similar qualification was necessarily implicit in clause 13.

Assistance might also be derived from the well-known line of authorities dealing with notice to terminate licences. In particular, *Canadian Pacific Railway Co v R* [1931] AC 414 dealt with the problems which arose where a licence was a matter of public rather than purely private, commercial concern.

Applying that case, a reasonable notice should involve sufficient time for the making of substituted arrangements within the statutory scheme. In the present case there was no doubt that the notice actually given was inadequate judged by any standard of reasonableness.

His Lordship also thought that it was unacceptable in principle and in public interest that a public function, with the concurrence of the landowner, should be given a period specifying a period which everyone knew to be impossible.

This was a case like *Canadian Pacific*, where a valid notice was

one which gave sufficient time to enable practical arrangements to be put in hand to safeguard the public service. Accordingly, the notice was ineffective and had not validly revoked the licence of the school to occupy the site.

His Lordship went on to observe that the primary issue as to what would have been reasonable notice was the statute under which the licensee was operating.

Section 14 of the 1944 Act required the governors to give not less than two years' notice to the Secretary of State in order to discontinue a school; and a reasonable period should not be less than the minimum time which the statute allowed governors to discharge their responsibilities.

Once a valid at least two-year notice period had expired, the governors would technically be trespassers and potentially liable for mesne profits for continued occupation.

In practice, the amount of the payment would be a matter for negotiation based on a market rate but having regard to the respective capital contributions to the development of the site.

In the result, his Lordship made declarations that the notice of March 18, 1993 terminating the occupation of the school was not valid and that the school was not obliged to vacate the site under that notice.

Solicitors: Brecher & Co and Mr G. R. L. Crook, Barnet; Wincroft & Pemberton; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

## McGrath v Wallis

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Ralph Gibson  
[Judgment March 10]

Where a house had been acquired for joint occupation but was conveyed into the name of only one of the occupants, the equitable presumption of advancement was to be considered as a judicial instrument of last resort. Not only in cases between husband and wife but also in those between father and child the presumption was rebuttable by comparatively slight evidence.

Thus where a house was acquired for a father and his son but was put in the son's name to enable a mortgage to be obtained and where evidence existed of proposals that the beneficial interest should be shared, there could be no doubt that the presumption was rebutted.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Margaret McGrath, from the refusal by Judge Sturges sitting in Luton County Court on December 9, 1993, to declare that the defendant, the plaintiff's brother, Mr Brian Wallis, held the property at 10 Tolbooth Road, Luton, on trust for himself and the estate of his deceased father in unequal shares.

Mr Geoffrey Jacques for the plaintiff; Mr Mark Dwyer for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that since the decision of the House of Lords in *Pettit v Pettit* [1970] AC 777, the application of the equitable presumption of advancement to houses acquired for joint occupation had been reclassified as a judicial instrument of last resort. The presumption was to be applied only in cases where the evidence was of such a nature as to make it probable that the parties intended that the property should be shared.

There appeared to be no subsequent case in which the

presumption had proved to be decisive, even where one of the parties had died. But here, in a contest between a son and the estate of his deceased father, the decision of the judge was squarely based on a presumed intention of the father to make a gift of the house to his son.

In 1959 the father of the plaintiff and the defendant had acquired in his sole name a house in Luton which had remained the family home for many years. The plaintiff had lived there until she married in 1974 and the defendant was still living there when their mother died in 1985.

In 1986 the father had decided to sell the house, it being too large for the needs of himself and the defendant, and move elsewhere.

To acquire the Tolbooth Road property an additional amount had to be raised on mortgage. The father was not employed at the time but a mortgage offer was made by a building society to the defendant and in due course the property was conveyed into his sole name.

However, the father had appointed solicitors (not appearing in the instant case) to act for him. The evidence showed that a deed which was to have been a declaration of trust was drawn up by them.

Thereby Tolbooth Road was to be held by the defendant on trust for his father and himself in unequal shares of 80 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. That deed had never been sent to the father by the solicitors but much later was found unsigned in his files.

The father died intestate in 1990 and the plaintiff made a claim to be entitled to a share of the Tolbooth Road property. The defendant denied that she had any such entitlement.

The judge, having referred to the presumption of advancement and to *Snell's Principles of Equity* (29th edn 1990) pp 78, 180-81, stated that it was significant that the declaration of trust had not been completed but remained on the solicitors' file and said that "in all

probability that reflects the reality of the situation which here was the son, living in the house together with his father, the son being responsible for the mortgage".

The plaintiff, the judge concluded, had failed to discharge the burden of proof which was on her to rebut the presumption of advancement.

But the court had to look at all the circumstances of the case in order to see whether the judge or did not support an inference that the actual intention of the father was that he should retain an interest in Tolbooth Road.

Three features of the case were decisive. First, it was only the defendant who would have been acceptable as a mortgagee for the property; second, the father had never told the defendant that he had instructed the solicitors not to proceed with the declaration of trust; and third, no reason had been suggested for the father wishing to divest himself of all interest in the house.

In *Pettit v Pettit* Lord Upjohn (at pp 813-814), while maintaining that the presumption of advancement and of a resulting trust, properly understood and properly applied to circumstances of today, remained as useful as ever in solving questions of title, nevertheless accepted that they were rebutted by comparatively slight evidence.

Although *Pettit* was a case between husband and wife, the observations of all of their Lordships could be taken to apply equally to a case between father and child. Assuming that the approach of Lord Upjohn was correct, the evidence here was to be regarded as being markedly more than slight.

There could be no doubt that the presumption of advancement was rebutted.

Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Toller, Staunton, Leicester, Knowles, Benning, Luton.

## Court cannot order report

In re K (a Minor) (Contact: Psychiatric report)

In an application under the Children Act 1989 for contact by the absent parent with the child of the parties, the court was not entitled to order a local authority, pursuant to section 7, to instruct a child psychiatrist to prepare a report for the court's consideration.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Ward) so held on April 7 allowing the appeal of Greenwich London Borough Council against the order of Judge Coningsby, QC, in Bromley

County Court on December 13, 1994, that the authority, inter alia, obtain a report from a child psychiatrist concerning the child of the parties, now aged eight, about whom the court had evidence of emotional disturbance exhibited by a failure to perform properly at school so that therapeutic treatment was being given by an educational psychologist.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the authority, taken the view that "other person" in section 7(1)(b)(ii) could include a child psychiatrist. But the discretion under that part of the section was

given to the local authority to make the appointment over which the court had no control.

Notwithstanding the duties on authorities to attend to requests by parents, the court was not entitled to impose on them the burden of instructing a child psychiatrist.

The judge could have either invited the parties, given a willingness expressed by both parents, jointly to instruct an expert of their choice, or Order 40 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, on the appointment of an expert to report on certain questions, could have been invoked.

## VAT liability depends on the facts

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Reed Personnel Services Ltd

Where contractual arrangements between two or more parties were inconclusive as to the nature of the supply for value-added tax purposes then that supply was to be ascertained from the facts of the case.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 3 when dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs

and Excise from the decision of a VAT tribunal on August 3, 1993 that Reed Personnel Services Ltd were not making exempt supplies for the purposes of section 17 of and Group 7 of Schedule 6 to the Value Added Tax Act 1993.

Reed, a recruitment agency providing nurses to hospitals, contended that while it introduced nurses and provided associated obligations it was not making supplies of nursing services.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it might be that the contracts between the parties, while exhaustive of their private law functions, unsurprisingly, nevertheless neither catered for nor concluded the statutory question what supplies were made to whom. The nature of the VAT supply might be a consequence, but it was not a function of the contracts.

Where the contracts were not conclusive, the resolution of such issues remained a matter of fact for the tribunal. Accordingly, there was no error in the tribunal's reasoning in concluding that Reed was not a person in the business of providing nursing services.

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# Celtic Swing faces acid test at Newbury

By JULIAN MUSCAT

CELTIC SWING, the highly acclaimed champion, two-year-old of last season, is to make his seasonal reappearance in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury on Saturday. It is most definitely a date for the diary.

Lady Herries, who trains the colt for Peter Savill, yesterday confirmed the starting point at her Angmering Park Estate, in Sussex. She also took the opportunity to show off the son of Danvers, who has emerged from winter hibernation looking a picture.

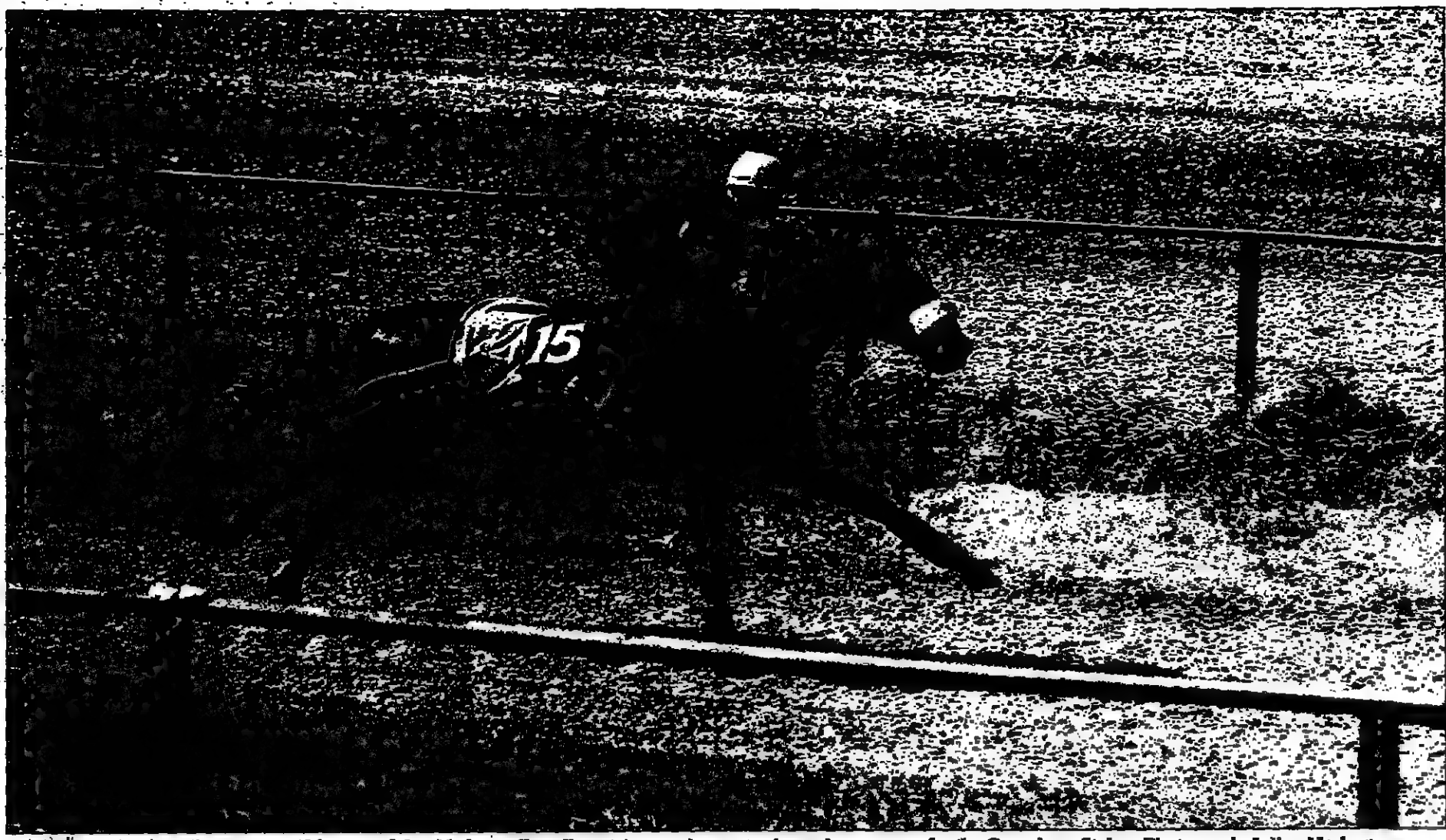
This impression was enhanced by Celtic Swing's rich bay coat. But the colt, who glistered in bright morning sunshine, has enjoyed a trouble-free preparation for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket.

Nag: WEE RIVER  
(5.50 Sedgefield)  
Next best: Nagobella  
(2.50 Sedgefield)

his first major assignment of the season. "We have chosen the Greenham because it is a still seven furlongs. It is close to home and we won't have to carry a pebble in the race," Lady Herries said. "The horse has won on good to soft and good to firm ground. But he won't be running anywhere if it is like a bog or a road."

Kevlin Dickey, who rode Celtic Swing to each of his three victories last season, is to put the colt through his paces on the all-weather gallop at Angmering tomorrow. "Celtic Swing should be close to full fitness for Newbury," his trainer said. "I don't know whether we have stepped his work up in time for him to be 100 per cent, but the Derby is his main objective."

Savill, who bought the colt



Celtic Swing demonstrates his powerful stride in a mile gallop at Angmering yesterday as he prepares for the Greenham Stakes. Photograph: Julian Herbert

privately from his trainer's mother, Lavina, the Duchess of Norfolk, 12 months ago, has ever since the Triple Crown, comprising the 2,000 Guineas, Derby and St Leger. The last horse to complete it was Nijinsky 25 years ago.

Of course, talk of the Triple Crown is bound to generate the wildest expectations, and it is here that hype takes over from reality. William Hill

Celtic Swing at a ludicrous 9-1 to sweep the classic hurdle. He may have been regarded with the highest of ratings for a juvenile since the international classifications were first compiled, but Celtic Swing has much left to prove. The point was acknowledged by Bob Mason, who cares for the horse every day.

Mason showed the wisdom of his 62 years when he said yesterday: "I think it will take a very good horse to knock

him back, but he has to prove to himself on the racetrack. I have always said that I'll let the horse do the talking. There's no point making predictions."

Lady Herries dismissed the concern that Celtic Swing is not blessed with the greatest of front legs. However, were he an unknown horse up for auction, few judges would select him as an ideal Derby candidate. On fast ground, as it often is in June, the gradi-

ents of Epsom could take their toll on this otherwise handsome thoroughbred.

Yet now is not the time to dwell on such matters. The prospect of his return to racing next week is exciting in the extreme. As he posed for the cameras yesterday, Celtic Swing also silenced inevitable rumours of his ill-health. "Look at the horse for yourself," Lady Herries insisted. "Peter Savill said he always thought there was a basis for

rumours. Now he knows there isn't."

Sporting a sheepskin noseband, Celtic Swing galloped over a mile yesterday, showing the thunderous action that has so demoralised his opponents. "Last year he settled his races in a matter of strides," his trainer recalled. "They were galloping at 43mph in the Racing Post Trophy but it still wasn't fast enough for him."

Let us hope that remains the

case. For behind talk of him growing, thickening, strengthening and thriving over the winter, the only thing certain at this early stage is that Celtic Swing is alive and well.

With Pennekamp, the French-trained colt, waiting in the wings, Celtic Swing has a formidable opponent to contend with. It will hardly be a season of processional victories, particularly if he has not progressed at the rate his connections believe.

## Worcester produces another void race

THE Cromwell Selling Hurdle at Worcester yesterday was declared void, the day after a race at Kelso had also been ruled void.

Mark Perrett was knocked unconscious when unseated from Storm Heights at the first hurdle and was still prostrate, but receiving medical attention, as the field made their way back into the home straight.

The flight was doled off and the remaining runners bypassed the hurdle on the orders of the course doctor, Stewart Wilkie, who was attending the stricken Perrett.

Six of the runners then jumped the final hurdle while the remainder pulled up with Persian Bud, partnered by Martin Bosley, passing the post in front.

The clerk of the course, Hugo Bevan, explained: "Dr Wilkie was at the second-last hurdle and he was extremely concerned as Mark Perrett was unconscious and having severe respiratory problems. The doctor realised the race would be declared void, but was adamant the hurdle must not be jumped."

Perrett returned to the course after being discharged from Rookwood Hospital, where he had undergone extensive examination.

The six jockeys who jumped the final flight were all fined. Martin Bosley, John Kavanagh and Diane John were fined £220, with conditionals Greg Robertson, Paul Middledy and Denis Leahy fined £110.

2.20 Keep Betting	2.50 Woe River
2.20 Nagobella	4.50 First Chance
2.50 Woe River	4.50 Another Venture
Brian Bial: 4.50 First Chance	

2.20 MONKEY PUZZLE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
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# Pick your Fantasy First XI and win £10,000

The cricket season starts today and *The Times* cricket game returns with it, bigger and better than before with the chance to win £250 a week during the season and, for the best performance of the summer, a top prize of £10,000.

In association with Company Barclaycard, the United Kingdom's leading corporate charge card, we have renewed our exclusive arrangement with the Test and County Cricket Board to present *The Times Fantasy First XI*. The great strength of last year's game, *First Class XI*, have been preserved. It is up to you to select the team you think will sweep the board. Every first-class run your players

score and every first-class wicket they take will count towards your total. There are no artificial additives, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of your selection skills and your eye for first-class talent.

But we have introduced some big improvements. We have simplified the rules, deepened the pool of players and introduced the chance to change your team during the season.

We have added the West Indies touring party to our list of overseas players, making the likes of Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, available for selection. We have dispensed

with the captains' category and replaced the reserve system with a transfer season. Starting on May 4, we will carry the full list of players' first-class scores and the names of the top 100 entries every Thursday, but, for the first time, we are also providing a Fantasy First XI hotline, so you can check your team's progress when it suits you.

This year, there is a new service designed to enable groups of players at home or at work to measure their selection skills against each other by forming a mini-league. You will also be able to enter an office team and try to win the Company Barclaycard League. Full details of these

Our new, improved cricket game offers you the chance to celebrate the start of another season and put your selection skills to the test

services will be published next week.

The rules are simple:

- 1) Select five batsmen.
- 2) Select one all-rounder.
- 3) Select one wicketkeeper.
- 4) Select four bowlers.

Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) overseas player.

6) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories

published here (for example a player such as Graeme Hick listed here as an all-rounder, may only be selected as a batsman; Phillip DeFreitas is listed here as an all-rounder — he may not be selected as a bowler).

There will be a seven-day transfer season (July 12-18) when no first-class cricket is due to be played, during which you will be able to change up to four members of your team, although your final

XI must still conform to the six rules above. You do not have to change your team at all, but, if you choose to, you will receive the points scored by your original selection up to July 12 and those scored by the revised selection from the moment first-class play resumes on July 18.

Apart from these transfers, no changes will be allowed. No substitutions can be made, so it is worth bearing in mind the injury records of the players available. If a player is not playing first-class cricket, then he is not scoring in the Fantasy First XI.

Scoring: you score according to the performance of your players. For every run each of

your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or stumping) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

In the event of a tie, the scores of the rising star will be decisive. If another tie-break is necessary, its form will be decided by *The Times Fantasy First XI* panel.

Prizes: *The Times Fantasy First XI* season runs from today (April 13) until September 18 but the deadline for

entries is noon, April 27. Postal entries must be received by April 27. Only first-class matches, as designated by the Test and County Cricket Board, throughout the season (including those played before the closing date for entries to this competition), will count. One-day games do not count.

As last year, you can enter by phone or by post. Phone calls will be charged at 39p per minute, cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. An average call should last no more than six minutes.

Please note that postal entries must be accompanied by a fee of £2.50, and cheques should be made payable to *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

## England regulars may not provide the most points

BY SIMON WILDE

CHOOSING a team for the Fantasy First XI competition involves many delicate decisions. If your first-choice players are affected by injuries and dramatic losses of form, there will be nothing you can do about replacing them until the transfer period arrives in mid-July. But there are ways in which you can enhance the prospects of your side from the outset.

One is to think carefully before choosing any player who might be called on regularly by England, who are involved in a Texaco Trophy series and six Test matches against West Indies. The Texaco Trophy will deprive all the England players except those from Surrey of one first-class match for their counties — and their performances in the three one-day internationals will not, of course, count towards the Fantasy First XI game.

And, while runs scored, wickets taken and wicket-keeping dismissals accomplished in the Test matches will count, these will be all the harder to come by against the might of West Indies. Graham Gooch and Mike Goring, who have retired from international cricket and might be expected to score heavily in the less fierce environment of county cricket, could well be more productive selections than, say, Michael Atherton and Darren Gough, who will miss seven and six championship matches respectively if they play in every England international.

Other shrewd selections might be those players who spend the summer pushing hard to regain their England places — players, perhaps, such as Robin Smith, Andrew Caddick and Martin McCague.

Another delicate decision is the choice of overseas player. Twentieth century players are listed below who are expected to be included in the West Indies tour party, which will not be announced until later this month. They offer some valuable options, such as Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, but it should be borne in mind that the West Indians' 14 first-class matches outside the home of the West Indies are partly as preparation for the internationals.

An alternative is to select one of the overseas players attached to first-class counties. Seventeen such cricketers are listed below, Surrey, the eighteenth county, having not yet confirmed their choice in the wake of Waqar Younis's injury problems.

It should be noted that a number of overseas county players will not join their teams until after the season has begun and will miss fixtures as a result. Manoj Prabhakar, who is playing in Sharjah, will miss Durham's match with Oxford University starting today and Mark Waugh, who is touring the Caribbean with Australia, will not join Essex until May 16. By then, his county will have completed championship matches against Leicestershire and Worcestershire and a three-day fixture with Cambridge University.

Otis Gibson, Glamorgan's nominated overseas player, will not learn until April 21 whether he will be playing for them or touring with West Indies. If he is available to Glamorgan, he will join them in time for the start of their championship campaign but will have missed the county's match against Oxford University.

Aravinda de Silva, of Kent, Mushtaq Ahmed, of Somerset, and Wasim Akram, of Lancashire, may all leave their counties early to take part in a Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka scheduled for September.

A number of county cricketers may be taken away from their counties to play for England Under-19, who meet their South African counterparts in two one-day internationals and three Test matches between July 1 and August 13. Most prominent among these will be Marcus Trescothick, the England Under-19 captain, who will miss the championship matches for Somerset as a result. Under-19 matches are not first-class.

Neither Tom Moody, of Worcestershire, nor Michael Bevan, of Yorkshire, will be chosen for the Australia A party that will tour England and Wales in July and August. The Australia A players will be ineligible for the game.

Two Oxford University players who join counties after the University match finishes on July 7 have been included: Gregor Macmillan, a batsman, will be added to Leicestershire's staff, and Richard Yessieley will supplement Middlesex's bowling strength. Yessieley's appearance for Oxford, though, may be restricted by examination demands.



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**THE FANTASY FIRST XI**

Transfer by phone: **089 70056**

Call cost 39p in standard charge area, 49p in other areas. Calls last 6 minutes.

BATS MEN	
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ALL-ROUNDER	
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BOWLERS	
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**TEAM NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 15 characters)

**Your Personal Identification Number** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AGE IF UNDER 18 \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Send your entries to: *The Times Fantasy First XI*  
Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NS

**SELECT A TEAM TO BEAT THE BEST**

There are six basic rules:

- 1) You must select five batsmen.
- 2) You must select one all-rounder.
- 3) You must select one wicketkeeper.
- 4) You must select four bowlers.
- 5) You must select one overseas player.
- 6) You must select one rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories published below. Only matches designated as first-class by the TCCB will count.

**1** In this section you enter the five batsmen you have selected from the list below. You may only pick players listed (see page 38) as batsmen. You may only select one overseas player and one rising star for your whole team. Every wicket they take will count towards your total.

**2** Please enter the code of the selected all-rounder in the space provided. The code must be drawn from numbers 124-165, in the section below.

**3** You will select your wicketkeeper from the list below. You may only select one overseas player and one rising star for your whole team. Every wicket they take will count towards your total.

**4** In this section you enter the four bowlers you have selected from the list below. You may only select bowlers listed (see page 38) as bowlers. Again, you may only select one overseas player and one rising star for your whole team. Every wicket they take will count towards your total.

**5** For every 100 runs of your XI score, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or stumping) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

**6** In the event of a tie, the scores of the rising star will be decisive. If another tie-break is necessary, its form will be decided by *The Times Fantasy First XI* panel.

**7** Prizes: *The Times Fantasy First XI* season runs from today (April 13) until September 18 but the deadline for entries is noon, April 27. Postal entries must be received by April 27. Only first-class matches, as designated by the Test and County Cricket Board, throughout the season (including those played before the closing date for entries to this competition), will count. One-day games do not count.

**8** As last year, you can enter by phone or by post. Phone calls will be charged at 39p per minute, cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. An average call should last no more than six minutes.

**9** Please note that postal entries must be accompanied by a fee of £2.50, and cheques should be made payable to *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

## How to enter by phone or post

THE 24-hour telephone lines are open now and close at noon on Thursday April 27, the day the Britannia Assurance County Championship begins. Runs scored and wickets taken in the first-class games before that date will count in Fantasy First XI. But beware the last-minute rush.

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a "star" key are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 0891 70056.

Then follow the step-by-step instructions. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference numbers) for each of your 11 chosen players in the following order: the five batsmen, the all-rounder, the wicketkeeper, the bowlers.

Make sure you have selected one overseas player and one rising star in your team. An incorrect entry will be void.

You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 15 characters) and to record your name, address and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be given a two-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Fantasy First XI* hot line to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute, cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about six minutes.

Competitors may give their teams any name of up to 16 characters. If a name is considered to be obscene, by the panel, or if that name has been taken, the competitor's surname will be used.

Readers wishing to enter by post should complete their Fantasy First XI card and send it (photocopies are not acceptable) with a cheque or postal order for £2.50 to *The Times Fantasy First XI*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NS. Cheques should be made payable to *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

All entries, whether by telephone or post, will be acknowledged. Queries should be made direct to Abacus on 0891 457444, quoting *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

Lara: 2,066 runs in 1994

Pate: 90 wickets in 1994

## FULL LIST OF FANTASY FIRST XI PLAYERS

<b>Batsmen (001-123)</b> 001 C Adams (Derbyshire) 002 C Adams (West Indies) 003 G F Archer (Nottinghamshire) 004 K L Atherton (West Indies) 005 A D Bailey (Leicestershire) 006 M A Atherton (Lancashire) 007 C V J Athey (Sussex) 008 R J Bailey (Nottinghamshire) 009 K J Bannister (Derbyshire) 010 M B Benson (Kent) 011 M G Bevan (Leicestershire) 012 D J Bicknell (Surrey) 013 J J Blore (Leicestershire) 014 P D Bowles (Somerset) 015 N E Evans (Leicestershire) 016 A D Brown (Surrey) 017 D Byas (Yorkshire) 018 S L Campbell (West Indies) 019 J D Carr (Middlesex) 020 S Chandrasekhar (West Indies) 021 M Church (Worcestershire) 022 P A Coley (Glamorgan) 023 G R Cooney (Kent) 024 J P Crawley (Lancashire) 025 W J Crome (Leicestershire) 026 D J Cullinan (Derbyshire) 027 T S Curtis (Worcestershire) 028 J A Daley (Durham) 029 R J Dawson (Gloucestershire) 030 P A de Silva (Kent) 031 M P Downman (Nottinghamshire) 032 N H Farrant (Lancashire) 033 A Fotherham (Nottinghamshire) 034 J E Gaffan (Lancashire) 035 M W Gann (Middlesex) 036 G A Good (Essex) 037 P G Gregory (Yorkshire) 038 K Greenfield (Sussex) 039 T H Hancock (Gloucestershire) 040 R J Harman (Somerset) 041 A N Hayhurst (Somerset) 042 G R Haynes (Worcestershire) 043 D L Hogg (Gloucestershire) 044 G D Hodgson (Gloucestershire) 045 A J Holliday (Surrey) 046 N Hussain (Essex) 047 S Hutton (Durham) 048 S P James (Glamorgan) 049 P Johnson (Nottinghamshire) 050 M Keigh (Hampshire) 051 S A Kettle (Yorkshire) 052 N V Knight (Worcestershire) 053 A L Lamb (Nottinghamshire) 054 B C Lara (West Indies) 055 M N Luffwell (Somerset) 056 W Lush (Durham)									
057 D A Leach (Worcestershire) 058 J B Lewis (Essex) 059 N J Lloyd (Kent) 060 G D Lloyd (Lancashire) 061 J L Loefer (Kent) 062 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 063 M B Loefer (Gloucestershire) 064 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 065 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 066 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 067 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 068 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 069 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 070 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 071 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 072 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 073 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 074 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 075 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 076 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 077 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 078 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 079 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 080 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 081 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 082 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 083 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 084 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 085 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 086 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 087 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 088 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 089 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 090 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 091 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 092 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 093 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 094 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 095 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 096 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 097 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 098 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 099 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 100 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 101 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 102 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 103 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 104 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 105 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 106 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 107 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 108 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 109 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 110 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 111 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 112 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 113 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 114 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 115 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 116 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 117 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire)									
<b>All-rounders (124-165)</b> 124 M A Atherton (Lancashire) 125 J D Blore (Leicestershire) 126 J P Crawley (Lancashire) 127 J A Daley (Durham) 128 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 129 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 130 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 131 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 132 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 133 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 134 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 135 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 136 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 137 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 138 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 139 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 140 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 141 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 142 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 143 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 144 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 145 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 146 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 147 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 148 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 149 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 150 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 151 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 152 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 153 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 154 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 155 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 156 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 157 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 158 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 159 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 160 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 161 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 162 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 163 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 164 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 165 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire)									
<b>Bowlers (166-207)</b> 166 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 167 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 168 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 169 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 170 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 171 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 172 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 173 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 174 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 175 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 176 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 177 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 178 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 179 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 180 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 181 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 182 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 183 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 184 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 185 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 186 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 187 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 188 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 189 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 190 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 191 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 192 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 193 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 194 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 195 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 196 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 197 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 198 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 199 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 200 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 201 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 202 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 203 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 204 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 205 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 206 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire) 207 M B Loefer (Nottinghamshire)									
<b>Overseas players</b> 208 C Adams (Derbyshire) 209 C Adams (West Indies) 210 G F Archer (Nottinghamshire) 211 K L Atherton (West Indies) 212 A D Bailey (Leicestershire) 213 M A Atherton (Lancashire) 214 C V J Athey (Sussex) 215 R J Bailey (Nottinghamshire) 216 K J Bannister (Derbyshire) 217 M B Benson (Kent) 218 M G Bevan (Leicestershire) 219 D J Bicknell (Surrey) 220 J J Blore (Leicestershire) 221 P D Bowles (Somerset) 222 N E Evans (Leicestershire) 223 A D Brown (Surrey) 224 D Byas (Yorkshire) 225 S L Campbell (West Indies) 226 J D Carr (Middlesex) 227 S Chandrasekhar (West Indies) 228 M Church (Worcestershire) 229 P A Coley (Glamorgan) 230 G R Cooney (Kent) 231 J P Crawley (Lancashire) 232 W J Crome (Leicestershire) 233 D J Cullinan (Derbyshire) 234 T S Curtis (Worcestershire) 235 J A Daley (Durham) 236 R J Dawson (Gloucestershire) 237 P A de Silva (Kent) 238 M P Downman (Nottinghamshire) 239 N H Farrant (Lancashire) 240 A Fotherham (Nottinghamshire) 241 J E Gaffan (Lancashire) 242 M W Gann (Middlesex) 243 G A Good (Essex) 244 P G Gregory (Yorkshire) 245 K Greenfield (Sussex) 246 T H Hancock (Gloucestershire) 247 R J Harman (Somerset) 248 A N Hayhurst (Somerset) 249 G R Haynes (Worcestershire) 250 D L Hogg (Gloucestershire) 251 G D Hodgson (Gloucestershire) 252 A J Holliday (Surrey) 253 N Hussain (Essex) 254 S Hutton (Durham) 255 S P James (Glamorgan) 256 P Johnson (Nottinghamshire) 257 M Keigh (Hampshire) 258 S A Kettle (Yorkshire) 259 N V Knight (Worcestershire) 260 A L Lamb (Nottinghamshire) 261 B C Lara (West Indies) 262 M N Luffwell (Somerset) 263 W Lush (Durham)									
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You must include in your team one player from each of these two categories:

**Overseas players**

002: C Adams (Derbyshire)  
 003: G F Archer (Nottinghamshire)  
 004: K L Atherton (West Indies)  
 005: A D Bailey (Leicestershire)  
 006: M A Atherton (Lancashire)  
 007: C V J Athey (Sussex)  
 008: R J Bailey (Nottinghamshire)  
 009: K J Bannister (Derbyshire)  
 010: M B Benson (Kent)  
 011: M G Bevan (Leicestershire)  
 012: D J Bicknell (Surrey)  
 013: J J Blore (Leicestershire)  
 014: P D Bowles (Somerset)  
 015: N E Evans (Leicestershire)  
 016: A D Brown (Surrey)  
 017: D Byas (Yorkshire)  
 018: S L Campbell (West Indies)  
 019: J D Carr (Middlesex)  
 020: S Chandrasekhar (West Indies)  
 021: M Church (Worcestershire)  
 022: P A Coley (Glamorgan)  
 023: G R Cooney (Kent)  
 024: J P Crawley (Lancashire)  
 025: W J Crome (Leicestershire)  
 026: D J Cullinan (Derbyshire)  
 027: T S Curtis (Worcestershire)  
 028: J A Daley (Durham)  
 029: R J Dawson



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# Wasim at heart of all-round excellence

I HAVE picked five Lancashire players - including myself - in my Fantasy First XI team. This is no coincidence. Lancashire are a strong all-round team, we have several established internationals, several internationals in the making, and we are serious contenders for the Britannic Assurance County Championship this season.

Had we played throughout the past two seasons as we did towards the end of both, we might not now be still waiting for the championship title to return to Old Trafford for the first time outright since 1934.

No player was more thrilled at our late form in 1994 than Wasim Akram, whose commitments with Pakistan prevented him playing for us after the first week in July. This season we should have his services for almost every match and I am sure that he determined for us all to do well. He is my choice as all-rounder and overseas player.

Three of my five batsmen are also from Lancashire. Michael Atherton has had an outstanding past 15 months with the bat for England and I am sure that this form will continue against West Indies whose fast bowlers he handles so well in the Caribbean each last year, when he scored 600 runs in five Test matches; he also expects him to improve markedly his championship form, which must have been disappointment to him in 1994.

I have chosen another league, Jason Gallian, because of his bowling, which will bring him some new wickets, and because he is developing into a fine player. He has a solid technique learnt on the England winter tour of India, and play spin bowling from the pitch.

I also back myself to have

good season. On a personal level, I was pleased with the way the tour of Australia went and am confident of starting the series against West Indies. Barring against their fast bowlers in Test matches is a different game but I believe I can do well. I have played against Ambrose, Walsh and Kenny Benjamin in county cricket and not done badly. I have never faced Winston Benjamin.

Since returning from Australia, I have embarked on a three-month fitness course with a personal trainer. Without wanting to neglect the technical side of my game.

**THE TIMES**  
**Fantasy**  
**FIRST**  
**XI**  
**COMPANY**  
**BARCLAYCARD**

have come to realise the portance of fitness and I want to have pride in all aspects of my performance.

My batting line-up is plotted by Graham Gooch, Graham Thorpe, Gooch makes one of the best batsmen in the country and he should continue to score heavily against county attacks. Thorpe's technique is based on the methods he devised on tour of the Caribbean last year and it has served him well since. He is well placed therefore to do well against West Indies this summer.

For my wickedest wish turned to Paul Nixon, of Leicestershire. He did well on the England A tour of India, can be relied on to make runs — he scored over 1,000 at first-class level last season — and is a complete bowler character. He keeps wicket athletically, too.

My four bowlers include the player I have chosen as my rising star. He is James Bovill, 23, the Hampshire medium-pace bowler, with whom I played for Combined Universities. He pitches the ball up and swings it away from the bat and I am sure he has a bright future in the game.

All my other bowlers advance the important added advantage that they can chip in with useful runs: Mervyn Giot, Darren Gough, and Gloucestershire's Chapple, another Lancashire team-mate. Gough and Chapple both had excellent winter tours, Gough in Australia and Chapple in India. I think Giot might have wintered equally well but for injury.

Apart from anything else, Giot would lend my attack a useful variation, which does not contain a spinner — some variation. He starts the season well and wins back his England place. I think Giot's left-arm bowling could present the West Indies bowmen with difficulties. It is noticeable that when West Indies lost in three days in Australia — in Bridgetown — another left-arm fast-medium bowler, Brendon Julian, played a leading role.

I rate Chapple very highly as a bowler and his pace in India, where he took 20 wickets at 16.88 each in the class matches, does not summe up. There must be a possibility that at some time summer he will be bowling England in tandem with Gough, my final choice.

Gough first played for Ireland less than a year ago now it is hard to imagine England side without him. He has had a brilliant

This year competitors in cricket game will be able to change their team during the season. We have replaced the reserve system we used last year with a new transfer period.

For seven days, from July 12 to 18, you will be able to make up to four changes to your original team without penalty. You do not have to make any changes, but if you choose to take advantage of this opportunity, your reshaped team must still conform to the general rules: you must have five batsmen, an all-rounder, a wicketkeeper and four bowlers (all as designated in the Fantasy First XI lists) and you must include only one overseas player and only one rising star.

Particular care would be needed if you chose to replace either an overseas player or rising star. If you decided to replace, say, Mushtaq Ahmed (an all-rounder) with Brian Lara (a batsman), you would have to make another change replacing another batsman with another all-rounder.

These restrictions apart, transfers may be made for any reason: injury, omission from the first team or just to reform. You must decide whether your original selection needs strengthening.

The scores of your players from July 19 will be added to those of your first selections before July 20. There are no first-class matches scheduled to take place during the transfer period.

From July 26, the new listing of players scores will be published in *The Times* weekly, both individual season and the scores accumulated since July 18.

Apart from the club allowed within the transfer period, no other alterations will be allowed to a team for any reason. No substitute, injured or suspended players will be allowed. If a player

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<b>Batsmen</b>	
006	M A Atherton
036	G A Gooch (I)
034	P R Galleian
024	P Crawley
106	G P Thorpe
<b>All-rounder</b>	
159	Wasim Akram
<b>Wicketkeeper</b>	
177	P A Nixon (I)
<b>Bowlers</b>	
233	M C Elliott (E)
224	D Gough (I)
205	G Chappell
200	N B Bowd

(Lancashire)  
(Essex)  
(Lancashire)  
(Lancashire)  
(Surrey)  
m (Lancashire; overseas player)  
(Lancashire)  
(Essex)  
(Yorkshire)  
(Lancashire)  
(Hampshire; rising star)

I have, I notice, picked a team that is strong on paper and promise. Four players — Chapple, Clott and Nixon — representing England against Warwickshire county champions Edgbaston next week.

Crawley plays

...a characteristic stroke into t

**opportunities**

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a touring team), he wi  
scoring in Fantasy Fi  
Injury records and  
opportunities are wor  
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your selection.  
Full details of how  
transfers will be pub  
The Times as the  
period approaches.

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# Form a league of your own

THIS year, for the first time, you can compete directly with colleagues at work or friends and family at home. Join our new Fantasy First XI mini-leagues. All you have to do is find three other Fantasy First XI players and agree to choose a team manager.

The team managers should submit to us the Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) which they and their friends received when they entered the game, and we will provide regularly updated mini-league tables throughout the course of the season. A small fee will be charged to cover the costs of administration.

Full details of the mini-league service will be published later and application forms will be available in *The Times* after the closing date.

All first-class runs scored and wickets taken count towards *The Times* Fantasy First XI starting today. But beware entering late. The phone lines will be busy in the last few days before the deadline.

for entries to Fantasy First XI on April 27. It is important to note that you must have entered the main competition and received your PINs in

order to enter the main league. Companies and office teams will also be able to enter a special league competition by using the first-league service. The four F1 XI team scores will be combined and entered in a separate league, the Company Wheelchuck League, with special prizes for the successful entries. Once again, you must have entered the main game before the closing date on April 27 in order to enter the company competition. Details about how to enter a team, and the great prizes for the winners will be announced next week.

sen players reluctant to play in first-class matches — the only matches that count towards the game — and thereby accumulate points.

As the accompanying table summarising the season's fixtures shows, some teams — and therefore the regular players — will have more matches than others. Middlesex, Worcestershire, Yorkshire and the West Indies touring team are the only sides guaranteed 20 first-class matches during the season, while Northamptonshire and Surrey will play a total of only 18. The difference of two

is impossible to be certain of their precise number of first-class fixtures, as six of them have been pencilled in for tour matches against the West Indians but only three of them will only fulfil these fixtures, depending on the results of certain matches in the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy limited-over competitions.

Players chosen by England for a Test match — and their assets of them against West Indies — will usually, though not always, miss one match for their counties as a result. England players will also be

may also be chosen for England A v Warwickshire in April and a TCCB XI v Australia A in August.

Players chosen for the Australia A touring team are not eligible for selection unless they are listed as an overseas player for one of the counties.

In such a case, their performances in first-class matches for Australia A will count towards their points total.

Middlesex and Nottinghamshire are the only counties with Counties Cup matches against Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Dorsetshire	.....
Durham	.....
Essex	.....
Glamorgan	.....
Gloucestershire	.....
Hampshire	.....
Kent	.....
Lancashire	.....
Leicestershire	.....
Nottinghamshire	.....
Norfolk	.....
Northants	.....
Nottinghamshire	.....
Oxfordshire	.....
Somerset	.....
Surrey	.....
Sussex	.....
Warwickshire	.....
West Indies	.....
Worcestershire	.....
Yorkshire	.....

f figure may be awarded to another  
 \* The West Indians' total includes s

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# Opportunities for players to shine will vary

A KEY factor in the Fantasy First XI game will be the number of opportunities chosen players receive during the 1995 season to play in first-class matches — the only matches that count towards the game's and thereby accumulate points.

As the accompanying table summarising the season's fixtures shows, some teams — and therefore their regular players — will have more matches than others. Middlesex, Worcestershire, Yorkshire and the West Indies touring team are the only sides guaranteed 20 first-class matches during the season, while Northamptonshire and Surrey will play a total of only 18. The difference of two

matches could be the difference of hundreds of points for certain players.

With some other countries it is impossible to be certain of their precise number of first-class fixtures, as six of them have been perilled in four matches against the West Indians but only three of them will only win these fixtures, depending on the results of certain matches in the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy limited-overs competitions.

Players chosen by England for a Test match — and there are six of them against West Indies — will usually, though not always, miss one match for their countries as a result. England players will also be

England-qualified players may also be chosen for England A v Warwickshire in April and a TCCB XI v Australia A in August.

Players chosen for the Australia A touring team are not eligible for selection, unless they are listed in the overseas player for one of the counties.

In some cases, their performances in first-class matches for Australia A will count towards their points total.

Middlesex and Nottinghamshire are the only counties with fixtures against both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Team	Championship
Cambridge Univ.	9
Dartmouth	17
Durham	16
England	18
Glasgow	17
Glamorgan	17
Gloucestershire	17
Hampshire	17
Kent	17
Lancashire	17
Leicestershire	17
Middlesex	17
Norfolk	17
Nottinghamshire	17
Oxford Univ.	17
Somerset	17
Surrey	17
Sussex	17
Worcestershire	17
West Indians	17
Worcestershire	17
Yorkshire	17

† figure may be awarded to another country  
☐ The West Indians' totals includes six

Univ v country	Wt tour	Aus A tour	Other	Total
7	0	0	1	8
1	17	0	0	18
1	1	0	0	6
1	6	0	0	18
1	0	1	0	19
1	1	0	0	19
1	17	0	0	20
1	1	0	0	19
1	17	0	0	20
1	1	1	0	20
1	17	0	0	20
2	1	0	0	18
2	0	0	0	10
9	0	0	0	18
9	0	0	1	18
0	0	1	0	19
0	1	0	0	20
20	0	0	0	20
1	1	0	0	20
1	1	0	0	17

Univ  
Test matches v England

1

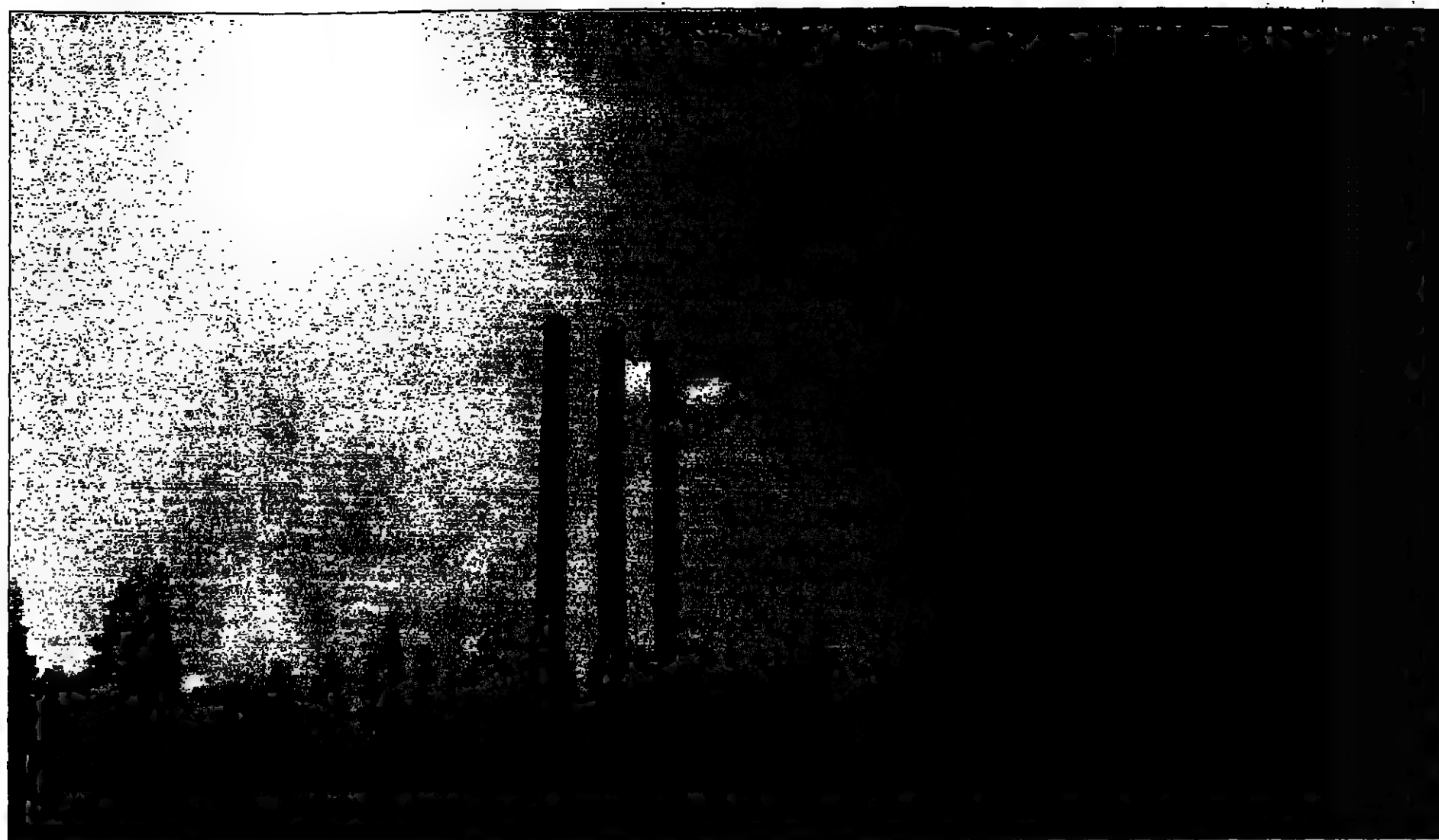
### SUMMARY OF FIRST-CLASS FIXTURES

Team	Championship	Univ v county	Wt tour	Aus A tour	Other	Total
Cambridge Univ	0	7	0	0	1	8
Derbyshire	17	1	1	0	0	19
Gloucestershire	0	0	1	0	0	1
England	0	1	1	0	0	2
Essex	0	1	1	0	0	2
Stamfordham	0	1	1	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	17	1	1	0	0	19
Hampshire	17	1	1	0	0	19
Kent	17	1	1	0	0	19
Lincolnshire	17	1	1	0	0	19
Leicestershire	17	2	1	0	0	20
Middlesex	0	2	0	0	0	2
Northants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford Univ	0	0	0	1	0	1
Somerset	0	0	0	1	0	1
Surrey	17	0	1	1	0	19
Sussex	17	0	1	1	0	19
Warwickshire	0	20	0	0	0	20
West Indians	17	1	1	0	0	19
Worcestershire	17	1	1	0	0	19

[illegible]



## Hectic international schedule follows low-key start to cricket campaign



**John Moden, acting head groundsman at Fenner's, tests the bounce of the pitch as a new season dawns with the visit of Yorkshire. Photograph: Michael Powell**

## Season ambles in with gentle looseners

As opening ceremonies go, cricket tends towards the humdrum. Launching the season a day before the Easter weekend, with a couple of anachronistic university fixtures, is the stuff of marketing men's nightmares and yet, such is the maelstrom to come, there remains something reassuringly serene about the ritual.

It has to be said, though, that a stranger wandering into England at this time of year would be mightily confused about what actually constitutes the start of the cricket season. Is it today, when The Parks and Fenner's will have their usual slim quota of cricket junkies for the visit of Durham and Yorkshire respectively? Is it next Tuesday, when the champion county plays England A: or the following Sunday, when the Benson and Hedges Cup incongruously starts; or even April 27, the first day of the county championship?

For the majority of those who follow the game, rather than being consumed by it, the curtain goes up somewhat

later — May 24, at Trent Bridge, venue for the first of three one-day Texaco Trophy matches against West Indies. International cricket, now more than ever before, dominates the English season, giving the game its profile and its prosperity. It is a trend unlikely to be reversed and a high level of interest can be guaranteed throughout this summer's

England's players have had a rare opportunity to draw breath since returning from Australia early in February. Let us hope that it was therapeutic, because there is precious little respite for them ahead. Starting in early June, they face 11 Test matches in seven months, or a rate of rather more than one every three weeks. Then, in a four-month tour of South Africa, they have barely a fortnight's grace before embarking on a five-week dash around the subcontinent in pursuit of the World Cup.

Will Michael Atherton survive that long as captain? How will Raymond Illingworth handle the accountability of

Will Michael Atherton survive that long as captain? How will Raymond Illingworth handle the accountability of



**Alan Lee prepares for a summer of unrivalled prosperity and pleads for the money to be carefully spent**

his new role in overall charge of England affairs? These will be the central fascinations of the coming months, so long as Illingworth does not succumb to an early shot of megalomania by insisting that Atherton be replaced as captain.

There has been one meeting between the pair since the tour of Australia, an inconclusive and not entirely reassuring one so far as Atherton was concerned, but it is surely inconceivable that the chairman of selectors-cum-team manager will abandon his captain now. Atherton has had a tough year and it is to the surprise of many that he has survived it. Nevertheless, he still represents England's best hope of strong, continuous leadership, perhaps to the end of the century.

To some extent, this depends on Atherton's resistance to burn-out. That there is now an

To some extent, this depends on Atherton's resistance to burn-out. That there is now an

prepares for a summer of

## prosperity and pleads to be carefully spent

absurd overload of the international schedule cannot be disputed, that it will, in time, blunt the appetites of players and spectators is inevitable, but it needs brave and enlightened men to prune when the short-term financial advice is to carry on growing. A properly structured and regulated world Test league would solve the problem, but this requires

One example of pragmatic profiteering evident this summer is that England will play six Tests against West Indies rather than the customary five. There is no logic to a six-Test series other than the consequent swelling of the bank balances of the counties and an opportunity has been missed to play an inaugural Test against Zimbabwe, whose performances merit it.

# Australia fight back after loss of early wickets

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN ANTIGUA

**THIS** splendid second Test match between West Indies and Australia still hung in the balance here yesterday afternoon. Australia led by 200 runs with five second-innings wickets in hand, with West Indies knowing that anything over 250 in the last innings will take a deal of setting.

After a wet rest day, the skies seemed to have cleared again and even by lunch the match had taken several turns. Boon and Mark Waugh, who had played so well in the last hour on Monday, were both out in the first 40 minutes, not to Ambrose or Walsh, but to Winston Benjamin.

Boon was leg-before, playing no stroke, and Waugh yorked when he looked to be cruising towards a hundred to add to the one he scored in the Test match here four years

Benjamin's success came as a reward for pitching the ball up, though he was bowling to a mainly protective field with only one slip and no gully.

Before Boon departed, the game was clearly in Australia's favour. After Martin Waugh had gone, West Indies had their noses in front once again and the pressure told on Steve Waugh and Blewett. Waugh took 70 minutes to reach double figures and Blewett immediately had two or three hair-raising moments. He must have been within an inch of leaving the

before to another Yorker from Winston Benjamin, and only with a deft piece of hockey did he save himself from playing on to Ambrose.

On a pitch that is still losing pace, Walsh was less hostile than earlier in the match. For some years now, there have been periodical mutterings about his action. They tend to recur when there is a bouncer barrage, as there was last

second over, he prised out Blewett, in a series already distinguished for the quality of the catching, nothing, not even the astonishing leap with which Richardson accounted for Slater at third slip on Monday, has been better than Williams's contribution now.

Blewett made room to force an off break through the off side but edged it sharply between Murray, the wicket-keeper and Williams, standing close up at slip. It was little short of miraculous how Williams, diving to his left, managed to hold the ball, two-handed and rolling over.

Seeing how Hooper was turning the ball, Richardson gave Adams the last over before lunch and he at once spun one of his little left-armers almost square from out of a bowler's footmark. Shane Warne's eyes must have been staring this but it

have lit up at Seelish soon; but it was back to Walsh soon after

**AUSTRALIA:** Pink Inninga 61 (CA Walsh 5 for 54).

*Second Inning*

\*M A Taylor c Murray b Walsh 5  
\*S Satter c Richardson b Walsh 5  
D C Boyer b W Walsh 5  
D B Taylor b W Walsh 61  
G E Wainwright b W Satterling 5  
G E Wainwright not out 61  
C S Stewart c Williams b Hooper 1  
D A Healy not out 1  
Extras 12 (B 5, LB 6, NB 0)  
Total 86 wickets 244

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-32, 2-45, 3-49, 4-102, 5-108.

**BOWLING:** Ambrose 19-42, 0-42; Walsh 29-55-2; Murray 19-1-62-2; K Satterling 19-41-47; Richardson 1-0-1-0; Hooper 35-1-1-0.

**WEST INDIES:** First Inning 280 (G C Lumsden 80).

**SECOND INNING:** S Bopchir (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (England).

Match referee: Naqib Khan (Pakistan).

## THE 1995 FIRST-CLASS CRICKET FIXTURES

## April

- 14-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)**  
The Parks, Oxford University v Yorkshire  
The Parks, Oxford University v Durham
- 15-TELETYPE BITTER SHIELD (four days)**  
Edgborough, Warwickshire v England  
Rugby, Warwickshire v Yorkshire  
Rennet's, Cambridge University v Lancashire  
The Parks, Oxford University v Glamorgan
- 16-TELETYPE BITTER MATCH (two days)**  
The Parks, Oxford University v Northamptonshire
- 17-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
Derby, Derbyshire v Northamptonshire  
Stockton, Durham v Gloucestershire  
Chelmsford, Essex v Glamorgan  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Combined Universities  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Hampshire  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire  
Taunton, Somerset v Sussex  
The Oval, Surrey v Wales  
Worcester, Warwickshire v Scotland
- 18-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
Derby, Derbyshire v Middlesex  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Combined Universities  
Southampton, Hampshire v Gloucestershire  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Lancashire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Lincolnshire  
Leeds, Minor Counties v Nottinghamshire  
Leeds, Minor Counties v Derbyshire  
Howe, Sussex v Ireland  
Edgborough, Warwickshire v Durham  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Lancashire
- 19-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Derby, Derbyshire v Sussex  
Stockton, Durham v Lancashire  
Chelmsford, Essex v Lancashire  
Canterbury, Kent v Northamptonshire  
Canterbury, Kent v Gloucestershire  
The Oval, Surrey v Gloucestershire  
Edgborough, Warwickshire v Middlesex  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Hampshire  
Huddersfield, Yorkshire v Surrey  
Headingley, Yorkshire v Lancashire
- UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)**  
Rennet's, Cambridge University v Essex  
Rennet's, Cambridge University v Hampshire
- 20-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
ANGLU, Leam, Duchess of Norfolk v 10 of West Indies
- 21-14XA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Chesham, Derbyshire v Yorkshire  
Swansea, Glamorgan v Sussex  
Bristol, Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire  
Canterbury, Kent v Lancashire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Warwickshire  
Northampton, Northamptonshire v Somerset  
The Oval, Surrey v Durham  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Middlesex
- TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Northampton, Hampshire v West Indians
- UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)**  
Rennet's, Cambridge University v Hampshire
- 16-TELETYPE BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Worcester, Warwickshire v West Indians  
Rennet's, Cambridge University v Hampshire
- BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
Chelmsford, Derbyshire v Lancashire  
Swansea, Glamorgan v Gloucestershire  
Southampton, Hampshire v Essex  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Lancashire  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Durham  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Combined Universities  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire v Lancashire  
Howe, Sussex v Kent  
Edgborough, Warwickshire v Minor Counties
- 18-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Chesham & Street, Durham v Hampshire  
Southampton, Hampshire v Lancashire  
Leeds, Gloucestershire v Derbyshire  
Leeds, Middlesex v Lancashire  
Canterbury, Kent v Northamptonshire  
Canterbury, Kent v Hampshire  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire v Surrey  
Howe, Sussex v Essex  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Gloucestershire
- UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)**  
The Parks, Oxford University v Northamptonshire
- 19-TELETYPE BITTER CHALLENGE (one day)**  
Canterbury, Kent v Somerset

## May

- 2-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
Premier's County Championship v Essex  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire  
Bristol, Gloucestershire v Middlesex  
Gloucestershire v Glamorgan  
Canterbury, Kent v Somerset  
Leicester, Leicestershire v Minor Counties  
Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Glasgow, Hamilton Crescent v Scotland v  
The Oval, Surrey v Sussex  
Edgbaston, Warwickshire v Lancashire
- 4-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Durham  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Yorkshire  
Leeds, Middlesex v Hampshire  
Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire  
Taunton, Somerset v Gloucestershire  
Hove, Sussex v Kent  
Edgbaston, Warwickshire v Surrey
- 7-AAA CUP & LAW LEAGUE**  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Durham  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Yorkshire  
Leeds, Middlesex v Hampshire  
Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire  
Taunton, Somerset v Gloucestershire  
Hove, Sussex v Kent  
Edgbaston, Warwickshire v Surrey
- 9-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
Premier's County Championship v Hampshire  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Gloucestershire  
Chesham, Essex v Lancashire  
Leicester, Leicestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington, Minor Counties v Durham  
Taunton, Somerset v Gloucestershire  
Worcester, Worcestershire v Derbyshire  
Glasgow, Hamilton Crescent v Scotland
- 26-TEXACO TROPHY**  
THIRD GROUP, ENGLAND v WEST INDIES  
(first one-day international)  
Birmingham, Warwickshire v Gloucestershire  
Leeds, Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Leeds, Middlesex v Nottinghamshire  
Leamington, Warwickshire v Durham  
Leamington, Warwickshire v Gloucestershire  
Sheffield, Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire  
UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)  
The Parks, Oxford v University of Derbyshire
- 26-TEXACO TROPHY**  
THE OVAL, ENGLAND v WEST INDIES  
(second one-day international)
- 26-TEXACO TROPHY**  
LORD'S, ENGLAND v WEST INDIES  
(third one-day international)
- AAA CUP & LAW LEAGUE**  
Cardiff, Glamorgan v Middlesex  
Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Gloucestershire v Worcestershire  
Plymouth, Hampshire v Sussex  
Leamington, Warwickshire v Gloucestershire  
Old Trafford, Lancashire v Nottinghamshire  
Leamington, Warwickshire v Durham  
Glasgow, Hamilton Crescent v Scotland  
Sheffield, Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
- 2-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**  
County Finals  
Trent Bridge or Old Trafford (Leicestershire, or Lancashire or West Indians (if both counties in Benson and Hedges Cup games), Warwickshire or Yorkshire)

## June

- 26-BRITAIN ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Hampshire  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Essex  
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire  
Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey
- 27-UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)**  
The Parks, Oxford University v Leicestershire
- 28-TEST CRICKET CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v West Indies
- 29-LOCALITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Cheshire-Streets: Durham v Kent  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire  
Derby: Derbyshire v Yorkshire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Essex  
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire  
Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey
- 30-BRITAIN ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Lancashire  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Essex  
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire  
Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey
- 31-FIRST CORNWALL TEST MATCH**  
"HEADLINEY: ENGLAND v WEST INDIES"  
BRITAIN ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Derby: Derbyshire v Lancashire  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Essex  
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire  
Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey
- 1-JULY**  
"TESTY: BRITISH CHALLENGE (three days)"  
Hove: Sussex v West Indians
- 2-UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)**  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire
- 3-UNDER-19 MATCH (one day)**  
Canterbury: England v South Africa
- 4-LOCALITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Hampshire  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire  
Leeds: Yorkshire v Lancashire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Somerset  
Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey
- 5-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP**

15-DITTA  
Derby.

- [illegible]

**TQF**  
**Reads**

- 15-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: Men's Test in West Indies  
LORDS: FINAL  
Tour Match (one day)  
Surrey (County Avenue) v West Indies
- 16-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leicester: Gloucestershire v Hampshire  
Cheltenham: Essex v Lancashire  
Canterbury: Kent v Northamptonshire  
Dorchester: Dorset v Gloucestershire  
The Oval: Surrey v Gloucestershire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Middlesex  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Hertfordshire  
Cricket will be played on July 18
- 17-COASTGUARD CUP**  
Leamington (three days)  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 18-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: Yorkshire v Australia A
- 19-TELTEL BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Somerset: Gloucestershire v West Indies  
Tour Match (three days)  
Cheltenham: Derbyshire v Australia A
- 20-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Bournemouth: Essex v Somerset  
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Warwickshire  
Exeter: Gloucestershire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Hampshire  
Glastonbury: Surrey v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire  
Hemel Hempstead: Yorkshire v Durham
- UNDER-19 MATCH (four days)**  
Trent Bridge: England v South Africa
- 21-TELTEL BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Leamington (three days)  
Headline: Middlesex v West Indies  
Tour Match (three days)  
Worcester: Warwickshire v Australia A
- 22-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Southampton: Essex v Somerset  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Hampshire  
Glastonbury: Surrey v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 23-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Australia A
- 24-FORTH CORNBELL TEST MATCH**  
LTD TRAFFORD: ENGLAND v WEST INDIES  
BIRMINGHAM ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Derby: Derbyshire v Glamorgan  
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Essex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Surrey  
Leamington: Middlesex v Sussex  
Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
- 25-TOUR MATCH (four days)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 26-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Glamorgan  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Essex  
Leamington: Lancashire v Surrey  
Leamington: Middlesex v Sussex  
Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Kent
- 27-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 28-TOUR MATCH (four days)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 29-INTERNATIONAL MATCH (three days)**  
Trent Bridge: England v West Indies
- 30-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 31-NATWEST TROPHY**  
South Wales
- 16-TELTEL BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Somerset: Gloucestershire v West Indies  
Tour Match (three days)  
Worcester: Warwickshire v Australia A
- 17-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cheltenham: Essex v Somerset  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Leamington: Middlesex v Sussex  
Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
- 18-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 19-TELTEL BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Somerset: Gloucestershire v West Indies  
Tour Match (three days)  
Worcester: Warwickshire v Australia A
- 20-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 21-NATWEST TROPHY**  
South Wales
- 22-TELTEL BITTER CHALLENGE (three days)**  
Somerset: Gloucestershire v West Indies  
Tour Match (three days)  
Worcester: Warwickshire v Australia A
- 23-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 24-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cheltenham: Essex v Somerset  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Leamington: Middlesex v Sussex  
Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
- 25-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 26-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 27-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cheltenham: Essex v Somerset  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Leamington: Middlesex v Sussex  
Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire  
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
- 28-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 29-INTERNATIONAL MATCH (three days)**  
Trent Bridge: England v West Indies
- 30-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Sussex  
Leamington: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
Leamington: Lancashire v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire  
Trafalgar: Somerset v Kent  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
- 31-NATWEST TROPHY**  
South Wales
- 1-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 2-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 3-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 4-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 5-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 6-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 7-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 8-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 9-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 10-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 11-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 12-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 13-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 14-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 15-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 16-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 17-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 23-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 24-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 25-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 26-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 27-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 28-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 29-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 30-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 31-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 1-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
Headline: England v Australia A
- 2-TOUR MATCH (one day)**  
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- 20-TOUR MATCH (three days)**  
Stonborough: Yorkshire v West Indians
- September**
- 2-NATWEST TROPHY**  
**LORRYE: FINAL**  
**OTHER MATCH (one day)**  
Stonborough: Yorkshire v Durham
- 3-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Chesham: Essex v Derbyshire  
Lancaster: Lancashire v Glamorgan  
Cardiff: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire  
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Hampshire  
The Oval: Surrey v Lancashire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Somerset
- FESTIVAL MATCH (one day)**  
Stonborough: President's XI v West Indians
- 7-TELEY BRYTER FESTIVAL TROPHY**  
Stonborough (three days)
- 8-OTHER MATCH (three days)**  
The Oval: Surrey v New South Wales
- 9-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Cardiff: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire  
Chesham: Essex v Derbyshire  
Lancaster: Gloucestershire v Durham  
Southampton: Hampshire v Somerset  
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Kent  
Underhill: Middlesex v Lancashire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Worcestershire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire  
Stonborough: Yorkshire v Sussex
- 10-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Cardiff: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire  
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Durham  
Southampton: Hampshire v Somerset  
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Kent  
Underhill: Middlesex v Gloucestershire  
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Worcestershire  
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire  
Stonborough: Yorkshire v Sussex
- OTHER MATCH (one day)**  
The Oval: Surrey v New South Wales
- 14-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Derbyshire: Derbyshire v Lancashire  
Chesham: Essex v Durham  
Chesham: Essex v Yorkshire  
Cardiff: Kent v Warwickshire  
Lancaster: Lancashire v Gloucestershire  
Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Hove: Sussex v Northamptonshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Glamorgan
- 17-AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE**  
Derby: Derbyshire v Lancashire  
Chesham: Essex v Durham  
Chesham: Essex v Yorkshire  
Cardiff: Kent v Warwickshire  
Lancaster: Lancashire v Gloucestershire  
Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire  
The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire  
Hove: Sussex v Northamptonshire  
Worcester: Worcestershire v Glamorgan
- \* match includes Sunday play
- Other matches at Lord's**
- Aug 25: MCC v MCC Young Gentlemen  
Jan 7-8: MCC v Ireland  
June 27: Don v Harrow  
July 18: MCC v MCC Schools  
July 22: MCC v MCC Schools  
July 23: NCA v V Combined Services  
Aug 3-10: MCC v Wales  
Aug 22: MCC Trophy (Minor Counties Invitational)  
Aug 25: Abbot Abbot championship final  
Aug 27: Alliance & Leicester Goro Village championship final  
Sep 2: MCC v Minor Counties CA (centenary match)

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By ROBERT SPENCER  
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## Conner's revival continues against Mahaney

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## TENNIS 41

PETCHY OVERLOOKED  
FOR BRITAIN'S  
DAVIS CUP CHALLENGE

## SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 13 1995

## YACHTING 42

CONNER'S SURVIVAL  
TECHNIQUE KEEPS  
CUP HOPES AFLOAT

## Coulthard and Schumacher to lose appeal



Coulthard: finished first

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A THREE-MAN tribunal of the FIA, the international governing body of motor racing, which is meeting in Paris today, is expected to uphold the decision that cost Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard first and second places in the opening race of the new grand prix season. However, the FIA has already dismissed suggestions that the teams were deliberately cheating when differences were discovered in fuel samples taken from Schumacher's Williams-Benetton and Coulthard's Williams-Renault before and after the Brazilian Grand Prix earlier this month.

An FIA official said yesterday that the decision was the result of a technical fault, either through error

or negligence. "It is not cheating. If it had been, the racing stables would have been excluded from the world championship," he said.

"Assuming that FIA's equipment functioned perfectly, the most probable explanation is that an incorrect batch of fuel was sent to Brazil by mistake," he added.

Yet the tribunal is unlikely to reinstate the two drivers. An appeal tribunal has never before overturned an FIA decision.

The incident sparked controversy soon after Schumacher and Coulthard crossed the finishing line at the Interlagos circuit, near São Paulo.

All competing teams had supplied FIA with samples of their fuel before the season began. The tests in Brazil were to compare the chemical

"fingerprint" of those approved samples with the actual petrol being used on the track.

The trouble started when differences were detected in the Williams-Benetton and Williams-Renault samples during practice and after the race, although those taken from the McLaren and Ferrari cars matched perfectly. The two Renault-engineered cars are supplied by the French company, Elf, while McLaren uses Mobil and Ferrari is powered by Agip.

In accordance with FIA rules, stewards at Interlagos promptly disqualified the two drivers, handing victory instead to Gerhard Berger, who drove a Ferrari to finish third in the actual race. The Benetton and Williams teams, who were also fined \$30,000 (£20,000)

each, both appealed against the decisions, while Elf challenged the way in which the tests were carried out and maintained that its fuel did in fact conform to the FIA rules.

In joint statements issued yesterday, the teams said they "never doubted that the FIA acted totally in the best interests of the sport, even though the infringement was of a minimal nature".

But the governing body remained unimpressed. "In my opinion, what they are trying to do is confuse the matter," Francesco Longanesi, a FIA spokesman, said.

Nor have the teams the support of Berger, the main beneficiary of the disqualification. "I do not feel sorry for Schumacher or Coulthard because cheating is cheating," he said after the race.

"Violation of the rules on fuel is no small matter. You can get 20 to 30 more horsepower that way alone. I noticed relatively early on in the race that something wasn't right."

The controversy may prove to be the last straw for Schumacher, the world champion, who was disqualified for two races last season. Like Nigel Mansell, the former British world champion, before him, he is considering departing the Formula One scene for IndyCar racing in the United States.

"There are limits to everything and, yes, I have had thoughts about going to IndyCar," Schumacher, 26, said. "I'm getting to the point where I'm finding all these accusations a bit too much to take."

Schumacher finished third behind the British driver, Damon Hill, in a Williams-Renault, and Jean Alesi, of France, in a Ferrari, at the second race of the season, the Argentine Grand Prix, last Sunday. Coulthard was forced to retire early with mechanical problems.

The race, which had to be restarted after multiple crashes on the opening lap, was finally completed without further incident, much to FIA's relief. After a 1994 season which had seen the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger, a serious injury to Karl Wendlinger and a protracted battle over the governing body's plans to make the sport safer and less dependent on technology, the last thing that FIA wanted was a legal battle over the winner of its first race in 1995.

## Striker to stay with Tottenham

## Klinsmann plays down talk of move to Bayern

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

JÜRGEN KLINSMANN, the Germany and Tottenham Hotspur forward, does not need to resort to pseudo-intellectual babble to reveal his frame of mind. His multilingual mastery, allied to a cool character and pleasant persona, allows little room for misunderstanding or mischievous speculation.

Thus, as the world awaits the next pretentious utterances from Eric Cantona, Klinsmann was happy to confirm his future at White Hart Lane for at least another season. He told Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, and Alan Sugar, the chairman, that he will not be breaking the two-year contract he signed on his arrival from AS Monaco last summer.

"I have heard a lot of talk about me going elsewhere and there have been a lot of nice things said about me," Klinsmann, 30, said. "I take it as a compliment, but all my concentration is with Tottenham at the moment. I feel very comfortable with Spurs and the team spirit is very positive here. It makes you feel like one of the lads."

"I am not aware of time running out for me but I am more concentrated because I know there are just a few years left. I don't have ten years in front of me any more and I want to make the most of it."

The options for Klinsmann. **Brazil favourites** ..... 42  
**Today's fixtures** ..... 41

as befit a player of his semi-nomadic nature and global status, were limitless. Tottenham's failure to reach the FA Cup final, after their dismal 4-1 defeat against Everton on Sunday, and the uncertainty surrounding their qualification for the UEFA Cup next season appeared to have enhanced the possibility of him moving on.

His solitary similarity with Cantona is that he thrives on the big stage, and playing in Europe represents the ultimate lure at club level. Take it away from a player who has won World Cup and UEFA Cup winners' medals, in a distinguished career, and the incentive to continue at the same club can disappear. Loyalty, in football, is often measured in trophies and titles.

Klinsmann has also had to reject the advances, shrewdly made public, of Bayern Munich and Franz Beckenbauer, their president. "He knows that we want him," Beckenbauer said. "If he wants to come here, he is cordially welcome." It is highly unlikely that the former Germany coach sought the approval of Francis and Sugar before enlightening north London with his thoughts.

With 26 goals this season, and plaudits aplenty, Klinsmann has only rarely experienced the searmer side of life since forsaking an idyllic existence in Monaco. On Sunday, he was allegedly assaulted by an Everton supporter as he left the pitch at the end of the semi-final defeat at Elland Road.

Francis said: "I didn't see what happened as I was already on my way to the dressing-room, but a letter is being drafted over the incident. It appears that Jürgen was hit and this sort of thing cannot be good for the game." A Football Association spokesman said: "We will investigate if we receive an official complaint."

Klinsmann, as usual, took it in his stride, brushed it aside and concentrated on propelling Tottenham towards their European target. He scored the 84th-minute winner — a classic far-post header — in the 2-1 victory over Manchester City in the FA Carling Premiership on Tuesday and then reaffirmed his desire to stay at White Hart Lane. Thankfully, without a mention of trawlers, seagulls or sandlines.

□ Celtic are one game away from ending a run of six years without a trophy after their 3-1 victory over Hibernian in the Scottish Cup semi-final replay at Ibrox on Tuesday. Goals from Willie Falconer, John Collins and Phil O'Donnell earned Celtic a meeting with Airdrie in the final at Hampden Park on May 27. Keith Wright replied.



Pete Sampras cannot hide his frustration after losing a point to Oliver Gross in the Barcelona tennis tournament yesterday. The unseeded Gross, from Germany, pulled off an upset by defeating the world No 2, from the United States, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3. Gross, who is ranked No 94 in the world, won the day-court match against the tournament favourite in 1hr 43min.

"It means a lot to me beating Sampras," Gross, 21, said. "It's my best win. He made easy mistakes and gave me a lot of points."

The match was Sampras's first in a tournament he had hoped would prepare him for the French Open, the only grand slam event he has not won. He had also hoped it would help to return him to the world No 1 ranking, which he held for 82 weeks until his compatriot, Andre Agassi, overtook him on Monday.

"I came to win this tournament," Sampras, 23, said. "Today I didn't play the way I should have. After a very good start, I found myself really pressing in the second set."

## Gough opens with honour

BY IVO TENNANT

GENUFLECTION towards Darren Gough has been one of the few constant factors about England's cricket in recent months. Always assuming he makes a full recovery from the foot injury that resulted in his early departure from Australia, the award he received yesterday as England's cricketer of the year is not likely to be his last in 1995.

The Yorkshire all-rounder, who received £7,500 at a lunch in London, said that the citation "made up for not completing our tour". The judges, who included Keith Fletcher, subsequently dismissed as England's coach, recognised Gough's "sheer impact and the buzz that he created among spectators".

In three Tests during the winter, Gough took 20 wickets and captured everyone's imagination. Mike Atherton, who won the award last year, was present yesterday, as were numerous other England captains of the recent past, among them Graham Gooch, who admits in his forthcoming autobiography,

to be published by HarperCollins next month, that he erred in not always selecting David Gower. However, he states frankly that at the time he felt more at ease without Gower's presence.

Gough, alas, will miss the start of the season, which begins in its usual apologetic way at Fenner's and the Parks today. Rather than playing against Cambridge University, he will be at Headingly.

Gentle opener, page 40  
Australia fight back, page 40

## Broncos invite clubs to share in grand vision

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE size of ground London Broncos are seeking for rugby league's new summer Super League from next March would house a fair proportion of the total attendance of just under 48,000 at the Stages Bitter Championship matches last weekend.

A ground-share with one of the big London football clubs is certainly a grandiose thinking. Wishful thinking, some might call it, with average crowds of just under 1,000 at the Broncos' Barnet Copthall Stadium this season.

Mention of the Broncos in a television straw poll in London streets this week brought several blank stares and one reply that they were an American football team. In converting attendances of 3,000 to an average of 44,000 in Brisbane, however, transforming apparently lost causes is something of a stock-in-trade for the Broncos organisation.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur or Queen's Park Rangers might not take kindly to a white charger galloping the pitch perimeter to celebrate a try, as happens at the ANZ stadium in Brisbane, income from filling an empty ground in summer is the attraction the Broncos will be pushing in discussions with several clubs.

Brisbane has committed itself to the breakaway Australian Super League and is to invest heavily in its London sister club, Barry Maranta,

the London chairman, said a venue for between 30,000 and 50,000 spectators was needed. "London Broncos day-night football will introduce to London not only exciting winning football but an exciting entertainment package," Maranta said. "The English Rugby League's staged decision to play in summer means that families will be encouraged."

What might lure these are high-profile players the Broncos do not possess at present. These are likely to come from Australia and, if rugby union in England is vulnerable to the Super League, it is from a London club with spending capacity over five years of £5 million from the new competition, which is backed by News Corporation, the parent company of The Times.

In the future over the merger of 15 clubs into six regional and city sides, talks between Salford and Oldham about their amalgamation as Manchester ended deadlocked after six hours. "We couldn't agree on the venue, the coaching staff, the board or even a name," Jim Quinn, the Oldham chairman, said.

Ken Arthurson, the Australian Rugby League chairman, claims 400 players are remaining loyal in not joining the Super League in Australia and New Zealand; enough, he claimed, to run a healthy alternative competition.

Reilly stays, page 41

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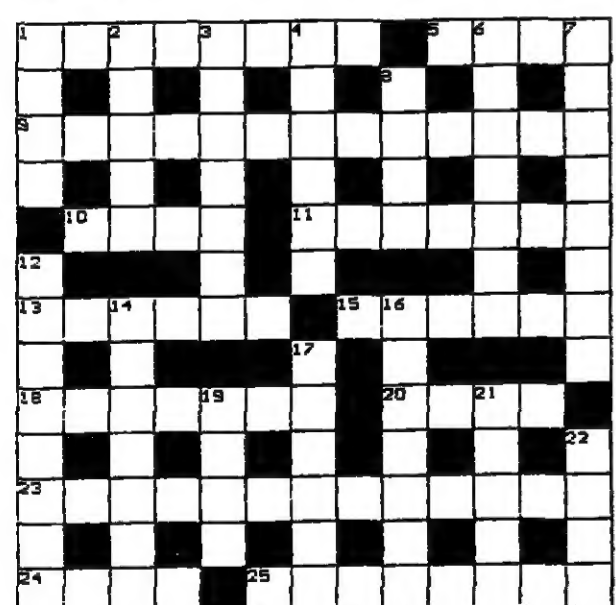
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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 445

## ACROSS

- 1 Touching tale (3,5)
- 2 Cut short; whistcock (4)
- 3 Ostentatious charity-giver (4,9)
- 4 Present (4)
- 5 Prohibition (order on shipping, commerce) (7)
- 6 Fine parchment (6)
- 7 Steal (6)
- 8 Almond essence, macaroon (7)
- 9 Point (of argument) (4)
- 10 Retaliatory principle (2,3,3,2,3)
- 11 Francisco —, Spanish portraitist (4)
- 12 Animal seeking another to eat (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Be in a huff (4)
- 2 Identifying label (5)
- 3 Motionless dramatic grouping (4,9)
- 4 Jacob's eldest; Israelite tribe (6)
- 5 Game arbiter (7)
- 6 Jersey, sweater (8)
- 7 Wound with knife; attempt (4)
- 8 Prorude, jut (8)
- 9 Form of gambling, has prize draw (7)
- 10 Gaunt; adventure-story writer (7)
- 11 Generous act: a 2 (6)
- 12 Run away (4)
- 13 Snow/rain mixture (5)
- 14 One's equal; look with difficulty (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 444

ACROSS: 7 Sugar pill 9 Honesty 10 Shrub 11 Nape  
12 Epicure 13 Intruder 14 Clog 15 Greek 21 Celsius 22 Absolute zero

DOWN: 1 Turnspit 2 Lapse 3 Stay up 4 Jessica 5 Tier  
6 Flabbergast 8 Thinking cap 13 Colliery 14 Cuckold 16 Excite 18 Blaze 20 Easy

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